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Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7028th meeting
Thursday, 5 September 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. El Oumni
	Pakistan	Mr. Hashmi
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. Afande
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Council for the month of September, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Mrs. María Cristina Perceval, Permanent Representative of the Argentina, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of August. I know that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Perceval and her delegation for the skill, perseverance and good humour with which they conducted the Council's business last month. They have set a very high benchmark.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I shall now give a briefing in my capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

I have the honour to present the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of that resolution. The present report covers the period from 16 July to 5 September, during which time the Committee held two informal meetings and conducted additional work using the no-objection procedure envisaged by paragraph 15 of the guidelines for the conduct of its work.

I am happy to report that the Committee adopted, on 9 August, its programme of work for the period of 1 July to 31 December 2013, which was brought to the Council's attention on the same date. During this period, the Committee continued to consider the recommendations made by the Panel of Experts in its final report (S/2013/331, annex). The Committee, which shares the objective of improving the implementation of Security Council measures, has made progress in reviewing those recommendations and considering whether to take practical steps to implement them. To date, however, none of those recommendations has been approved by the Committee.

The Committee invited the special representative of INTERPOL to brief us, at our informal consultations on 25 July, on cooperation between INTERPOL and other Sanctions Committees in promoting the implementation of Security Council measures. The Committee is now debating whether it should sign an agreement with INTERPOL to apply INTERPOL special notices to disseminate information to Member States regarding the Council's targeted sanctions list. Some Committee members have said, however, that they do not favour signing an agreement.

The Permanent Representative for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ambassador Khazaee, called on me at his request on 1 August to discuss that issue. We continued our discussion on whether and how to respond to the Panel's compilation of publicly available statements made by Iranian officials and alleged recipients of Iranian military assistance, including Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Hizbullah, regarding potential violations of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007). In that compilation, the Panel includes quotes from officials who spoke of transfers from Iran; some officials spoke of transfers that are prohibited by paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007). As requested by the Committee, the Panel continued to collect information on the matter regarding such transfers and submitted additional information to the Committee that the Panel coordinator said was

> "submitted following the request of the Committee to provide any information additional to the compilation of public statements of transfers of arms to Gaza by Iran".

We are studying that information carefully.

At my previous briefing to the Council in July (see S/PV.6999), I informed members that the Committee was considering an appropriate response to the United Nations Compensation Commission relating to the release of funds for two environmental claims to Iran. The Committee responded, on 24 July, to inform the Commission that the release of funds was not prohibited by the resolutions.

In July, I undertook to provide an update on our follow-up to the Panel's unanimous conclusion that Iran's launches of Shahab-1 and — 3 missiles during the Great Prophet VII exercises contravened paragraph

9 of resolution 1929 (2010). A number of Committee members continued to express the view, as confirmed by the Panel of Experts, that the launches constituted a clear violation of resolution 1929 (2010), and that therefore all Member States should redouble their efforts to implement ballistic missile-related sanctions on Iran. At the present stage, some Committee members cannot share that view. Iran still has not responded to the Committee's letter of 12 April on that matter, despite the effort of the President of the Security Council to reach out to the Iranian Mission on 28 June on its intentions regarding the letter.

I had my own opportunity to raise the matter directly with Iran's Permanent Representative during his call on me on 1 August. Unfortunately, he could not give me any indication as to whether an answer would be forthcoming. I also asked him about Iran's intentions to respond to the Committee's letter of 21 May, which had sought Iran's comment on another Panel report, this time concluding that an intercepted arms shipment was, at the very least, a probable violation by Iran of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007). Again, he was unable to advise whether Iran intended to reply; and, to date, Iran has not replied.

On both issues, the Committee remains actively engaged in discussing next steps. I would like to reiterate the Committee's hope that Iran will answer those communications as soon as possible. The Committee intends to continue to consider its options for action in response to each of those incidents and will provide an update in its next 90-day report to the Council.

I am happy to inform representatives that the Committee continues to receive information from States related to actions taken to implement the relevant Security Council measures. By a letter dated 12 July, a State forwarded preliminary information concerning the interception of valves destined for Iran. Another State, by a letter dated 1 August, transmitted a report on shipments confiscated by its authorities during the first half of this year and on measures taken to prevent the transit of shipments to Iran that were suspected of containing prohibited items. Such information is very useful to the Committee and its Panel of Experts, which is currently investigating those cases. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all Member States to transmit relevant information regarding the implementation of the Council's measures.

Through the Focal Point for Delisting, the Committee has received additional information from the First East Export Bank, an entity that is currently on the Committee's consolidated list, and whose request for delisting is on the Committee's agenda. The Committee will carefully study the information and will take it fully into account when considering the delisting request.

During the reporting period, the Committee received one notification with reference to paragraph 5 of resolution 1737 (2006) concerning the delivery of a video unit for use in the monitoring system of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

That is the end of my report.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Power (United States of America): Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your briefing and your leadership of this important Committee. Congratulations on a great first few days as President of the Council.

Like others here, the United States hopes that the inauguration of President Rouhani creates an opportunity for Iran to act quickly to resolve the international community's serious concerns about Iran's nuclear intentions. Unfortunately, we have not yet seen any clear signs that Iran is committed to addressing the most pressing concerns about its nuclear programme. On the contrary, recent developments trouble us. Just last week, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Amano, reported that Iran was continuing to march forward with its prohibited nuclear activities. The Director General stated that

> "the Agency will not be in a position to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared material and activities in Iran unless and until Iran provides the necessary cooperation".

That is a conclusion we have heard repeatedly from the IAEA. Rather than taking steps to meet the obligations imposed by the Security Council, Iran is installing advanced centrifuges that may be two to three times more efficient at enriching uranium than its current centrifuges. The Director General also reported that Iran is continuing to add to its stockpile of enriched uranium. Iran's expanded enrichment, its construction of the IR-40 heavy-water reactor at Arak

and other examples raised by the Director General not only violate multiple Security Council resolutions, they move us further away from a negotiated solution.

Later this month, the IAEA will hold a new round of talks with Iran. At the talks we strongly encourage Iran to adopt a cooperative and transparent approach with the IAEA. In the meantime, and until concrete progress has been made, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) must step up its efforts to improve the implementation of sanctions. In recent months, its work has not kept pace with the threat. As the President indicated, we were disappointed to find that, despite the best efforts of the Chair to find consensus, the Committee often fails to take even routine steps to implement its technical mandate. That must change. As a first step, the Committee should implement the recommendations contained in the May 2013 final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2013/331, annex). The recommendations are reasonable. If implemented, they would provide clarity and guidance to States about aspects of the sanctions. The Committee should also sign an agreement with INTERPOL to help disseminate information about individuals subject to targeted sanctions. Other Sanctions Committees routinely take such measures to implement the Council's resolutions. In this Committee, however, some members have politicized such actions and prevented the Committee from doing its job.

Even more critical, the Committee must improve its ability to respond to Iran's sanctions violations. It should immediately respond to Iran's July 2012 ballistic missile launches, which were a clear violation of resolution 1929 (2010). An effective response to that violation would include new targeted sanctions on those responsible. The Committee should also follow up vigorously on violations involving Iran's attempts to procure proliferation-sensitive items. A failure to address those and other violations would undermine the Council's credibility and authority. In line with its mandate, the Committee must do more to address Iran's arms smuggling. Its steady supply of weapons and military support to extremist groups clearly violates resolution 1747 (2007). In addition to violating sanctions, such assistance directly threatens stability in Yemen, Lebanon, Gaza, Iraq and other regions. Needless to say, Iran's longstanding military support of the Al-Assad regime is, under the current circumstances, simply unconscionable.

Even in the light of Iran's troubling actions, we remain convinced that principled diplomacy is still the best tool to achieve a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the international community's serious concerns. We would welcome a constructive sign that Iran may be prepared to engage substantively and seriously with the international community. If Iran chooses to do so, it will find a willing partner in the United States. We hope that Iran's new leadership chooses that path. Until Iran decides to meet its obligations, the Committee's work remains critical to the diplomacy of holding Iran accountable to the Council and to the broader international community.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would first like to thank Argentina for its efforts in presiding over the Council for the month of August. And I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency for September, and to wish you success in our work this month. I would also like to thank you, Sir, for your briefing in your capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and to commend you for your efforts on behalf of the Committee.

China has always greatly valued and supported the work of the Committee and will continue to cooperate closely with it in advancing all aspects of that work in a pragmatic, orderly and steady way, aimed at the comprehensive, balanced implementation of the resolution. While all parties have an obligation to implement the resolution accurately and in earnest, sanctions are not the resolution's fundamental objective or the criteria for judging the Committee's work. China has always believed that the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts should help the parties to build confidence, carry on dialogue and negotiations and facilitate the diplomatic process of settlement.

The Committee's work concerning individual cases where violations are suspected is very sensitive. All parties involved should carry out their work and make decisions based on the merits of the facts and in a pragmatic, objective and cautious manner. China will continue to abide by those principles and to participate actively and responsibly in the work. Finding a peaceful negotiated settlement to the Iranian issue through dialogue is the only correct and viable path. China has always opposed the use or threat of use of force, and is not in favour of putting excessive pressure on Iran or taking new sanctions measures against it. The current situation in the area is increasingly complicated, and

against that background all parties should continue to make efforts to maintain and promote a process of dialogue and to find a negotiated and appropriate settlement to the Iranian nuclear issue. This is extremely important to maintaining peace in the Middle East and preventing further turbulence in the situation. All the parties should therefore seize the moment and mobilize every possible favourable factor with the aim of holding a new round of talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany, while expanding consensus and taking due account of the consent of all parties.

China has taken note of the latest report (GOV/2013/40) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and encourages cooperation between Iran and the Agency, so that all can work together to achieve positive results in a new round of negotiations, to begin on 27 September. China has always taken an objective, responsible and fair approach to this issue and will continue to work with all sides to seek a settlement of the nuclear issue by diplomatic means.

Mr. Oyarzábal (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of September and reiterate my delegation's full willingness to work constructively with you and support you during your presidency. I would also like to thank you for the submission of the quarterly report on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for your leading role in chairing it.

Argentina has a firm and historic commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and believes that the international community should support the nuclear non-proliferation regime and its cornerstone, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. At the same time, my country reiterates the inalienable right of all States parties to the Treaty to develop their research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. That is a principled position that we have expressed in this and other relevant forums. In that context, we maintain a robust and peaceful nuclear programme that has made us leaders in the field in our region.

We have received the most recent report (GOV/2013/40) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), dated 28 August 2013, and continue to share his assessment of and concern about the lack of progress in providing clarity on the outstanding issues. We consider it essential that Iran actively cooperate with the Agency and provide all required information about its nuclear programme by providing access to all the necessary areas to allow for effective verification. In that regard, we believe it is important that Iran take the necessary steps to fully implement its obligations, including the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and restore the confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

We remain convinced that it is essential to continue to seek a solution through talks that provide certainty about the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We therefore encourage the parties to continue their efforts to that end in a responsible manner and without preconditions. We also reiterate that Iran must adopt and implement the so-called structured approach to resolve the outstanding issues, in accordance with the call by the IAEA Board of Governors in its resolution of September 2012 (GOV/2012/50). While we regret that no concrete results have been achieved thus far, we hope that the new round of negotiations between Iran and the IAEA, scheduled for 27 September, will make it possible to achieve substantive progress aimed at finalizing the structured approach document in order to begin the process of clarifying outstanding issues.

With regard to the work of the Committee, I would like to thank the Panel of Experts for its final report (S/2013/331, annex) and the recommendations made, which we fully support. While we highlight the swift publication of the report as an official document of the Council, we hope that the Committee will continue to consider the recommendations and other outstanding issues.

Finally, let me reiterate my country's position on the importance of improving the quality of the list of persons and entities subject to sanctions. We understand that it is essential that States provide, on a voluntary basis, additional information to enable the accurate identification of such persons and entities, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the measures imposed on Iran.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to join others, Mr. President, in wishing you every success in your presidency of the Security Council and thank you for the quarterly

report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), which you have just presented. The report shows, if anyone still doubted it, that Iran continues to refuse to comply with its international obligations. It continues its prohibited nuclear and missile activities and its arms transfers, which are illicit under Council resolutions.

We are particularly concerned by Iran's repeated violations, especially in the Middle East, of the arms embargo set out in resolution 1747 (2007). Those violations contribute to weakening a region that is already plagued by violence and instability.

During our most recent debate on the subject (see S/PV.6999), held in July, I stressed that the seizure of a large shipment of Iranian weapons off the coast of Yemen last February was worrying. The report of the Panel of Experts on that incident noted that the quantity and quality of the weapons seized — man-portable air defence systems, rocket launchers and explosives — could seriously undermine the political process under way in Yemen.

The Committee's Panel of Experts, whose work should be welcomed, also continued its research on shipments of Iranian weapons to non-State groups in Gaza. It provided the Committee with an additional document containing information that was also very worrying, showing that the weapons used by those non-State groups against Israel were indeed of Iranian origin.

Similarly, the Committee has repeatedly looked into incidents of arms shipments from Iran to Syria, where Iranian agents help the regime of Bashar Al-Assad in committing atrocities, as we are all well aware.

Iran is also pursuing its ballistic missile programme, in violation of resolution 1929 (2010). In July 2012, it fired Shahab-1 and — 3 ballistic missiles during the Great Prophet VII military exercise. The Panel of Experts investigated the matter, and its report confirmed without a doubt that there had been a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010). We call on the Committee, which has all the information necessary to declare this an infringement, to draw the necessary conclusions.

Faced with all those provocations, the Committee has sought to establish a dialogue with Iran by sending letters, if only to hear its side of the story. Iran has never responded.

The Committee also has a report by the Experts that includes a series of operational recommendations to improve the implementation of the sanctions that we have agreed on. The Committee must now take concrete measures to that effect, be it by helping countries to better target materials that could be used by Iran for its nuclear programme or by naming the entities involved in violations.

All of the incidents that I have just mentioned have taken place within the larger context of Iran's lack of cooperation with the international community. On 28 August 2013, the Director General of the IAEA presented a report (GOV/2013/40)on the implementation of safeguards in Iran. The report once again shows that Tehran is continuing to choose the path of defiance rather than dialogue, and confirms the continuation of the overall direction of Iran's nuclear programme. The enrichment of uranium to 3.5 per cent and 20 per cent at the Natanz and Fordow sites continues in an alarming manner, with an ever-increasing number of increasingly sophisticated centrifuges. The accelerated construction of a heavy-water reactor at Arak that will be capable of producing plutonium also continues, in violation of Security Council resolutions. The reactor vessel is now in place, and Iran has a sufficient amount of heavy water for it to begin operating.

Finally, the dialogue on the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme has not made any progress. November will be the second anniversary of the report of the Director General of the IAEA on the subject. Eighteen months after discussions were launched, no agreement has been reached with Iran. The work done on the Parchin site, to which IAEA has been requesting access for 18 months, poses a real obstacle to the Agency's verification work.

The group of six remains united in its efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian proliferation crisis. We also agree on the strategy to be adopted based on the balanced proposals that we made to Iran in Almaty. We will meet again in New York on the sidelines of the General Assembly on 26 September to continue our dialogue.

We understand the expectations that have been generated by the establishment of a new Government in Tehran. We also have expectations, and we remain open to constructive dialogue that will allow us to resolve this serious proliferation crisis. But given such a serious threat, we cannot be satisfied by the declarations of

intent by the new authorities in Iran. In order to be sincere, the Iranian declarations must be translated into action; otherwise, our international pressure on Iran will be maintained. Respect for the international regime on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the maintenance of international peace and security are at stake.

Mr. Hashmi (Pakistan): We congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month and wish you success in your endeavours. We also thank you for presenting the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We take note of the recent report (GOV/2013/40) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the implementation in Iran of the safeguards agreement under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue is both possible and necessary. Such a solution must also be anchored in dialogue and negotiations. We welcome the recent positive overtures and statements. We hope that the new Government of Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) can resume their diplomatic engagement as early as possible to find ways of resolving outstanding issues.

Demonstrations of political will and flexibility by all concerned will be required, as well as mutual confidence-building measures. A negotiated solution can and should be facilitated by striking a balance between sanctions and negotiations.

Iran, as a party to the NPT and the IAEA, is entitled to certain rights that should be respected, in line with the provisions of those instruments. At the same time, Iran should fulfil its legal obligations under those instruments. We urge Iran to stay engaged with the IAEA and extend its full cooperation to it, with a view to addressing the remaining issues.

As other Council members have continued to point out, the work of the Panel of Experts and its activities should conform strictly to its mandate. Its reports, analyses and recommendations must be based on objectivity and impartiality and backed by solid evidence. Their findings and reports will carry the weight they deserve when they enjoy consensus within the Panel.

At the same time, the 1737 Committee should also adhere to high standards of neutrality and professionalism. Security Council sanctions should not be pursued as an end in themselves. Neither should sanctions negatively impact legitimate trade activity.

The Council needs to support a negotiated solution to the unresolved issues. We once again urge the Council and the 1737 Committee to re-evaluate the objectives and strategy as set out in the relevant resolutions.

Finally, the Council and the Committee will only benefit by broadening the composition of the Panel, particularly with members from developing countries. The Secretariat must consult all Council members prior to the commencement of the appointment, or reappointment, of experts. The principle of transparency in recruiting must also be fully complied with.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your briefing today on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). I commend your leadership of that important Committee.

Iran's nuclear programme remains a source of deep concern for the international community. The latest report (GOV/2013/40) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicates that the number of Iran's centrifuges and its stockpile of enriched uranium continue to increase, in contravention of the relevant Security Council and IAEA resolutions.

Iran is still uncooperative in resolving issues related to the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme, including access to the Parchin site. It is also disappointing that, despite 10 rounds of talks between the IAEA and Iran since January 2012, an agreement has not been reached on the structured approach document.

Some have expressed hopeful expectations that the new Government in Iran will bring positive change to the stagnant political negotiations. However, others have expressed concern that such expectations are prematurely optimistic. The new Government may need some time to meet the hopes of the international community. Iran needs to realize the necessity of regaining the confidence of the international community in the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme through credible actions.

The next round of talks with the IAEA, in late September, will provide a timely opportunity for Iran to show its sincerity. We hope that the new Government will cooperate with the IAEA and make substantial progress. We also call upon the new Government to

respond more constructively to the current proposal of the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany.

Turning to the Committee's work, we are concerned that pending issues — such as the July 2012 ballistic missile launches, the transfer of arms to Yemen and military support to Gaza — still remain under discussion without progress.

It is regrettable that the Committee has not received any response from Iran to the letters it had sent in April and May concerning those pending issues. As a Member State of the United Nations, Iran should fully cooperate with the Committee by responding to those letters promptly and sincerely.

At the same time, the Committee must not await such responses in perpetuity. We expect the Committee members to discuss ways to move forward on those matters. It is the Committee's primary responsibility to respond to such violations. The Committee's inaction on violations will undermine the authority and credibility of the Council.

In the same vein, we reiterate that the Committee should properly implement the recommendations of the Panel of Experts. The Panel's final report (S/2013/331, annex) provides a clear picture of the sophisticated methods that Iran uses to evade sanctions and procure items from abroad for its prohibited programmes. The Panel's recommendations are effective countermeasures against those illicit activities and are designed to help Member States better implement the resolutions.

Finally, we consider it desirable that the Committee expand cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international institutions. INTERPOL's special notice system has already benefited many Sanctions Committees, as noted in resolution 1699 (2006). We hope that the Committee can reach a positive conclusion on the matter.

Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to begin by thanking the Argentine delegation for steering the work of the Council during the month of August and to congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of September. My delegation also thanks you for your informative briefing and your work at the helm of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), as well as the work of your team.

With respect to today's briefing, it is difficult to find anything new to contribute, not only because of the particularly short time period covered by the report and the lack of cooperation on the part of the Iranian Government, but also due to the minimal progress that has been made. While the topic is highly politically sensitive, we regret the stalemate in considering the recommendations set out in the Panel of Experts' final report (S/2013/331, annex), submitted in May, which my delegation supports. We also support the Committee's programme of work for the period 1 July to 31 December, which was adopted on 9 August.

It would appear that, today, the problem does not involve publishing final reports as Security Council documents but, rather, the Committee taking action based on the reports' recommendations. We would urge all members to redouble their efforts in order to reach a consensus on the recommendations contained in the final report. We hope that in upcoming informal meetings, it will be possible to agree on possible steps to be taken in order to implement the recommendations.

With regard to the question of public statements attributed to Iranian officials and the alleged beneficiaries of Iranian weapons transfers, as the Council will recall, my delegation expressed its reservations about taking action within the Committee based on information collected from the media and without taking into account additional testimony of the Panel of Experts, based on exhaustive investigation into the matter, including the verification of facts. We take note of the additional information, and are prepared to consider it in an objective manner.

In that regard, as indicated by other delegations in the context of discussions of similar incidents in other sanctions committees, while my delegation supports any action taken by the Committee and Panel of Experts to investigate all notifications of alleged violations of sanctions, we do believe it necessary to carefully analyse whether or not the news provided by the media is a good basis for such action. My delegation finds it difficult to accord the same degree of seriousness and credibility to information obtained from the press or the Internet as that obtained by an in-depth and broad investigation into matters. We consider it important to reach agreement on a consistent approach through the different subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.

We note the concerns expressed in the recent report (GOV/2013/40) of the Director General of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with regard to the implementation of the safeguards regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The report again indicates that Iran is not cooperating as necessary and that pending issues, including those related to a possible military dimension of its nuclear programme, remain unresolved. The lack of results and progress in the dialogue between Iran and the IAEA, despite 10 rounds of talks with the Agency since January 2012, remains a source of frustration and concern for the international community.

We again urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt measures for the full application of its Safeguards Agreement and other obligations and commitments undertaken under the NPT, especially with regard to opening itself to inspections and to reaching an agreement on a structured approach. We take note of the round of conversations planned for late September and ask the new Government to take advantage of that opportunity to send a signal of good faith through real and specific advances in its discussions with the Agency.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your presentation of the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We recognize your committed work as Chair of that subsidiary body of the Security Council.

The report shows that the 1737 Committee continues to work hard; however, we also note the absence of progress on a number of cases of which the Committee is seized. It is regrettable that, despite the efforts of the Chair of that Committee, none of the recommendations in the final report of the Panel of Experts has yet been adopted. Those recommendations were nevertheless balanced. They had been presented unanimously by the Panel of Experts, whose exemplary work I commend. The implementation of the recommendations would allow us to make the sanctions regime more operational. We must continue to ensure that the Committee pursues its consideration thereof.

Another important issue is the firing of Shahab-1 and-3 ballistic missiles during the Great Prophet VII military exercises. More than a year has gone by since that flagrant violation of the provisions of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010) took place. It is time for the Committee to adopt the required measures. The absence of any response to the letter sent to the Iranian authorities should not serve as a pretext for inaction. It is a question of credibility.

The same reasoning applies to the interception on 23 January of the *Jihan*, a vessel that was transporting arms to Yemen. The absence of a reply to the letter sent in May to the Iranian authorities does not exempt the Committee from continuing to work to adopt appropriate measures in response to that effort to avoid the sanctions regime, especially since such a delivery of arms could further destabilize a region that is already in a precarious situation.

Such potential regional instability also leads us to be concerned by Iranian leaders' public statements about the delivery of arms to Gaza. On that issue, we have enough information, gathered by the Panel of Experts, to request clarifications from the Iranian authorities.

Today's briefing by the Chair of the 1737 Committee referred to the very useful briefing of the Special Representative of Interpol on 25 July to the Committee. In that context, we would welcome an agreement between the 1737 Committee and Interpol with respect to the distribution of special notices. Those notices have been successful in providing information and in raising awareness among States Members of their commitments under the sanctions regime. We believe that there is no serious justification for the 1737 Committee's failure to use them when almost all other sanctions committees do so.

While it is true that sanctions do not represent an end in themselves, we should also remember that they are not the result of happenstance. Such measures are the outcome of ongoing concern over the nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. They represent the international community's response to Iran's refusal to respect international commitments and to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In that regard, too little progress has been achieved, judging by the most recent report of the IAEA (GOV/2013/40) published on 28 August. The report clearly shows that there has been a slowdown in the growth of the stockpile of uranium enriched to 20 per cent, but it also confirms enrichment activities and the development of capacities to produce enriched uranium, thanks to the establishment of hundreds of new IR-2m centrifuges. Moreover, the construction of

a heavy-water reactor in Arak is advancing, and Iran continues to refuse to allow access to the Parchin site to IAEA inspectors. All those developments cast doubt on Iran's real attentions.

We note with interest the scheduled relaunching of discussions on 27 September between Iran and the IAEA to define a so-called structured approach in order to resolve outstanding issues with regard to the possible military dimensions of the Iranian nuclear programme. We sincerely hope that, unlike previous talks, these will allow us to move forward. On 17 August, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Catherine Ashton, informed the new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, of the determination of the E3+3 to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. She reasserted the importance of holding substantive talks that would rapidly lead to tangible results. We endorse that appeal, and we encourage the new leadership in Iran to commit as soon as possible to constructive negotiations with the E3+3 and to take the measures necessary to demonstrate to the international community that its nuclear programme has strictly peaceful ends.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your work as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and for presenting the 90-day report of the Committee.

Resolutions of the Security Council — an organ that, according to the Charter of the United Nations, has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security — are binding upon all Member States and must be strictly implemented. Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the work of the Committee concerning the implementation of Security Council measures, the objective of which we have seen contributing to a political and diplomatic solution to the problem based on international law. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the NPT's safeguards agreement provide solid bases to that end.

During the reporting period, the Committee adopted its programme of work for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2013. It also continued to receive information from Member States relating to action taken to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. It is essential that Member States cooperate with the Committee and the Panel of Experts by providing information about the implementation measures.

We note that the Committee has made progress in reviewing the recommendations contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts, although to date none of them has been approved by the Committee. We also note the Panel's visit to several Member States to discuss matters pertaining to the mandate of the Panel, including the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. It is essential that the Panel continue its outreach activities, which play an important role in increasing the number of national implementation reports from Member States.

I would also like to refer to the report of the IAEA Board of Governors of 28 August (GOV/2013/40), which, inter alia, points out that despite 10 rounds of talks held between the Agency and Iranian officials with a view to reaching agreement on the structured approach document, no concrete results were achieved and it was not possible to begin substantive work on resolving the outstanding issues.

It is important that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue its efforts to build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. It is essential to continue dialogue and cooperation on the issue, on which progress is urgently needed to ensure regional stability. We look forward to the next round of talks that is planned for 27 September in Vienna. We hope that diplomatic efforts will help make concrete progress and move the resolution of the problem forward.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): I hope you do not mind, Sir, that I introduce myself by name, because this is the first time that I am addressing the Council. My name is Peter Wilson, and I am the new Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom. It is an honour to be in this group, and I am proud to be here.

First of all, I really do want to thank the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), under your chairmanship, Sir, as well as the Panel of Experts for their continued work in supporting the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions on Iran. The United Kingdom, like others in the international community, remains deeply concerned by Iran's nuclear programme, as others have said very clearly today.

The latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), released on 28 August (GOV/2013/40), highlights Iran's installation of around 1,000 more advanced centrifuges, which are now capable of beginning enrichment at short notice, and its continued rapid installation of regular centrifuges elsewhere. There is no plausible civilian purpose for the amount of enriched material that Iran already possesses, let alone the amount that it can now produce. After 10 meetings, Iran has also made no progress on addressing the IAEA's questions over possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.

Iran has a new President and a new Cabinet team. We were interested to hear from Under-Secretary-General Feltman, during the horizon-scan meeting that was held yesterday, about his discussions early this week. We agree with others in the Council that President Rouhani has an opportunity to pursue a different course for the future by addressing international concerns about Iran's nuclear programme and its other destabilizing activities across the Middle East. If he does this, a more constructive relationship with the international community will be possible. As the British Foreign Secretary said recently, if Iran is prepared to make that choice, we are prepared to respond in good faith.

Turning to the work of the Committee, we regret that Iran continues to breach its international obligations. In particular, the Panel of Experts reached the clear and unanimous conclusion, in its January report, that Iran's launch of a ballistic missile last year constituted a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010). As you, Sir, have just briefed us and others have underlined in the Council, the efforts of the Chair to engage with Iran on this issue have, unfortunately, been spurned. Iran has still not responded to the Committee's letter of 12 April requesting further information, despite requests that it do so.

We, along with others, therefore reiterate our view that the Committee must now take appropriate action in response. The evidence of this breach is compelling. The Committee needs to recognize that formally as a violation of United Nations sanctions. It should then take further action, including by sending an implementation assistance notice to assist all Member States in implementing ballastic missile-related sanctions on Iran, as well as considering the designation of those involved.

The Panel of Experts' final report, issued in May, makes six recommendations to the Committee, including the designation of a company involved in Iran's proliferation efforts, and proposals to provide guidance to Member State on the implementation of sanctions. It is disappointing that little progress has been made in implementing these recommendations. They are, or should be, uncontroversial. The Committee should redouble its efforts to make swift progress on implementing these.

We in the United Kingdom are also concerned by credible information that Iran continues to illicitly transfer arms within the region, in contravention of the United Nations embargo on the export of weapons by Iran, as the Panel's reports on Gaza and the illicit arms interdiction reported by the Government of Yemen demonstrate. Iran's continued efforts to increase instability across the wider region and beyond must end. The United Kingdom calls on the Panel to continue to monitor these issues, identify individuals and entities responsible, and include recommendations in due course.

More generally, we are increasingly concerned about the failure of the Committee to take clear action in a number of specific recent cases. It is the role and responsibility of the 1737 Committee to monitor and take action on alleged violations of Security Council resolutions on Iran, and to strengthen the effectiveness of those measures. This unity and resolve have become less evident in recent months. We urge the Committee to come together and to collectively address these issues, or it will not fulfil its mandate.

The United Kingdom remains committed to finding a peaceful, negotiated solution to the nuclear issue, as others have said and argued for. If Iran is prepared to engage seriously in negotiations on its nuclear programme, we are ready to respond in good faith. The confidence-building measures proposal submitted by the E3+3 in Almaty is a fair and credible offer. We urge Iran to engage with that offer seriously, but until Iran takes positive steps to address international concerns, the political and economic pressure will increase.

Mr. Afande (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like first to thank you, Sir, for your briefing. I join the 10 representatives who have spoken before me in conrgatulating you on your admirable work chairing the Committee.

We note the efforts towards communication and cooperation made by the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-à-vis the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since our meeting in July (see S/P.6999). That includes information supplied by Iran on its enrichment activities at Natanz in the context of the updated questionnaire on descriptive information issued in late July. Similarly, the following month, the descriptions provided by Iran of the installation of IR-2m centrifuges were widely confirmed by the IAEA. Some progress has also been made by Iran in terms of information provided about uranium conversion and the manufacture of fuels.

In view of all this, the IAEA was able to conclude that the system worked as Iran had said, which Togo welcomes. Furthermore, we welcome the exchanges between Iran and the IAEA, the fundamental elements of which will appear in the structured approach document, which will allow the IAEA to conduct an effective audit. We hope that the talks in Vienna on 27 September will record progress on the issue.

While these efforts should be highlighted, the list of Iran's pending obligations remains long. Indeed, in its latest report (GOV/2013/40), the IAEA notes that some of the activities undertaken by Iran in certain installations that are in principle subject to the Safeguards Agreement are contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Board of Governors.

Similarly, the Agency's conclusions show that, in spite of the efforts at communication to which I have referred, enrichment-related activities have not ceased at the declared installations of Natanz and Fordow. With regard to the Fordow facility in particular, we urge Iran to heed the Agency's requests for access and to provide the information requested.

Answers are also expected with regard to the IAEA's requests for explanations concerning the announcements made by Iran about new enrichment facilities.

My delegation calls once again on Iran to fully cooperate in the various relevant areas and to allow inspectors to verify and to report.

Iran's cooperation is also necessary with regard to the pursuit of reprocessing activities and projects related to heavy water in the uranium conversion and fuel fabrication processes.

We hope that the willingness expressed recently by Iran will extend also to pending requests. We have already placed great hopes in the willingness expressed by the new President, Mr. Hassan Rouhani, to resume talks with the group made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany.

I should like to conclude with three brief comments.

First, we believe that cooperation between INTERPOL and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) would be a good thing, provided that modalities can be determined in order to dispel reservations in various quarters.

With regard to the compilation arrived at by the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010) concerning public statements made by Iranian officials on the matter of military assistance to non-State armed groups such as Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Hizbullah, Togo supports further serious and impartial investigation. Togo believes that there is some doubt as to whether statements made in the press could be used as tangible proof of events. The same requirement for transparency and impartiality in investigations applies to the case of the ship seized in Yemen.

Finally, we would emphasize the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran cooperating closely with the 1737 Committee.

I would like to conclude by reiterating my gratitude not only to the 1737 Committee but also to the Group of Experts, which we urge to continue its rigour and impartiality in the investigations it carries out.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to thank the delegation of Argentina for its successful presidency of the Security Council last month. We are also grateful to Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We thank him and the entire Australian delegation for their skilful chairmanship of that Council body.

It is important that the Committee continue to act in an impartial and objective manner, in the interest of a diplomatic political settlement to the situation regarding the Iranian nuclear programme. The Panel of Experts provides the Committee with useful support. However, we continue to believe that the Panel should carry out its work under the guidance of the Committee while

fully respecting the working methods and carrying out its investigations based solely on reliable and verifiable information.

We welcome statements by the new President of Iran, Mr. Hassan Rouhani, concerning Tehran's willingness to show greater openness with regard to its nuclear programme. We hope that those intensions will be in evidence during the forthcoming round of regular discussions between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), slated for 27 September. It is necessary that a new round of dialogue under the 3+3 format of international mediation take place as soon as possible. The groundwork has already been laid for the first negotiations under that framework.

We would also like to point out that statements by representatives of the new Iranian Administration are in line with the well-known Russian view concerning a settlement of the problem, namely, that a final decision can be arrived at only through a recognition of the unconditional right of Iran to develop a civilian nuclear programme, including the right to enrich uranium. Of course, that should precede the resolution of all outstanding problems with regard to Iranian nuclear activities, under reliable and comprehensive IAIA controls, and the lifting of any sanctions against Iran.

We see no alternative to a diplomatic and political settlement. Efforts to that end should be made in a phased manner, based on the principle of reciprocity and in line with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. However, we are convinced that the collective and effective nature of steps on the part of the international community to address and resolve problems related to the Iranian nuclear problem are undermined by unilateral sanctions, many of which are extraterritorial in nature. That is categorically unacceptable under international law.

Our country will continue to make every effort to achieve progress in resolving the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme.

Mr. El Oumni (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by congratulating Argentina on its successful presidency of the Security Council last month. I also congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Council's presidency. We wish you every success.

I also thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his quarterly report on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), as well as the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (1929).

The briefing given to us today shows that the Committee continues to consider every case referred to it, in particular reports of the Panel of Experts concerning developments that undermine the provisions of resolutions adopted by the Security Council. In that regard, the Committee should overcome differences in order to respond to potential violations of the sanctions and proceed to consider the recommendations of the final report (S/2013/331, annex) of the Panel of Experts, with a view to arrive at consensual conclusions on implementing them.

We also encourage the Committee to positively consider the possibility of signing a cooperation agreement with INTERPOL, while fully abiding by the relevant resolutions of the Council. We hope that the Committee will continue to benefit from the impartiality and professionalism of the Panel of Experts. However, the cooperation of all Member States, including with regard to requests for information, is essential to fulfilling the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the Council. We call on the Committee to continue to make available to Member States any information and clarifications that could facilitate the implementation of the Council's relevant resolutions.

The summary to the most recent report (GOV/2013/40) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicates that, in spite of the stepped up dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran since January 2012, it has not been possible to arrive at an agreement on the structured approach document to settle pending questions concerning the possible military aspects of Iran's nuclear programme. In the light of the most recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we hope that that country and the IAEA will be able to swiftly arrive at an agreement to begin substantial work on the issue. As the relevant agency in the area of safeguards, the IAEA should enjoy all the necessary cooperation in order to make concrete progress on pending matters.

Based on our ongoing commitment to dialogue and negotiation to peaceably resolve differences, regardless of their nature, complexity or the sensitivities involved, we welcome the continuation of talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany (P5+1). We hope that this dialogue will make it possible to make progress towards a solution that is acceptable to the parties. The efforts of United

Nations bodies should aim to support the role and work of the IAEA and encourage the stepping up of talks between Iran and the P5+1 to reach a negotiated solution.

It is of crucial importance to prevent any weakening of the non-proliferation regime and to work to ensure that all States fulfil their safeguards obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The strength and impact of the NPT and the pursuit of the strategic objective of nuclear disarmament remain dependent on the respect of all States for their obligations arising from that fundamental instrument.

My country continues to support the global objective of nuclear disarmament and to recognize the right of all States to use nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful ends. The non-proliferation regime is based on a delicate balance between States' rights and obligations that must be protected, preserved and strengthened through the full respect of its provisions.

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the 90-day update report and a job well done in leading the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) since January — an experience that will certainly help as you, Sir, also preside over the Council for the month of September. We also appreciate the support that the Panel of Experts continues to provide to the Committee and we stress the importance for the Panel to follow the principles of objectivity and impartiality.

We would like to reiterate our belief in the application of the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, namely, non-proliferation, disarmament and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is therefore our view that every country has the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In that respect, we are concerned by the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of 28 August (GOV/2013/40), in which the Agency's Director General states that Iran's activities reflect no willingness to stop its proliferation activities. We hope, however, that the talks scheduled for 27 September in Vienna between Iran and the IAEA will be an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and build confidence among all parties.

In that context, we regret that Iran has yet to collaborate with the 1737 (2006) Committee and did not reply to the letters sent in April and May related to last year's launches of Shahab-1 and — 3 missiles and the seizure of a vessel suspected of violating the arms embargo against Iran. However, we remain hopeful that the new Government will bring more diplomatic openness to discussing and resolving the current nuclear crisis. As such, we believe that at this time, and especially due to the tense situation in the region, it would be prudent for the Committee to refrain from taking any further action against Iran. In that regard, we call on the Council to engage with the new Iranian leadership in order to ensure transparency on the nuclear programme in Iran. We believe that it is in the interests of the new Government of Iran to quickly show willingness and openness and allow the 1737 (2006) Committee to carry out its mandate.

Let me conclude by reiterating our firm belief that the current Iranian nuclear crisis can be resolved only through diplomatic and political dialogue, including with the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany. As a member of the 1737 (2006) Committee, Rwanda is committed to continuing to work with Iran and all countries in the Middle East towards the denuclearization of the region.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7029

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7029th meeting
Tuesday, 10 September 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2013/479)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2013/479)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Liberia to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Brownie J. Samukai, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Liberia.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Karin Landgren, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I also invite His Excellency Mr. Staffan Tillander, Chair of the Liberian country configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and representative of Sweden, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/479, which contains the twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

I now give the floor to Ms. Landgren.

Ms. Landgren: Ten years ago, on 18 August 2003, the last in a long series of Liberian peace agreements was signed in Accra. Liberia is celebrating 10 years of uninterrupted peace, and commitment remains steady, as described in the report of the Secretary-General now before the Council (S/2013/479). Liberia deserves praise and, more importantly, continued support. A decade is a long time to keep the peace, but a decade is a short time to reverse the effects of a war that left the country shattered or to overturn over a century of social and political exclusion and poor governance. Many potential drivers of conflict remain to be addressed through long-term reforms coupled with inclusive development.

Recent months have seen an increasingly vigorous public discourse among civil society, youth groups and political parties about how far the country has come and how best to meet its current challenges. This was partly driven by contemplation of the tenth anniversary of peace and partly coalesced around current events, such as the recent court-ordered incarceration of a prominent newspaper editor. Liberia's stability is sufficient to provide an environment conducive to the reforms being undertaken by the Government. The importance of those reforms to consolidating peace has been recognized by the Council, notably in the security and justice sectors and in the areas of decentralization and more transparent and accountable Government. I will say a few words about where these stand.

The Constitution Review Committee has been working, with the support of the United Nations, to prepare the ground for the necessary national consultation. In the coming weeks, civic educators will begin working to inform and educate the public. The Committee still faces serious financial and capacity constraints, in addition to the broad buy-in that it needs to forge, which could affect its ability to adhere to the timeline, which is tight, despite the one-year extension of the mandate through 2015. The United Nations will continue to support the Committee and the broader constitutional review process.

In July, the Government established a decentralization support programme board for the overall coordination of the financial and human capital being invested to make decentralization a reality in Liberia. The board consists of Government ministries and international partners, including the United Nations family. Decentralization is expected to promote more inclusive and accountable governance. It will also take time for it to begin functioning fully, both legislatively and in the light of the country's limited human and institutional capacity.

Decentralized governance structures also feature in the National Reconciliation Road Map. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf launched the implementation of that 18-year framework in June, placing it under the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Continued clear leadership of the Road Map will be important. It is comprised of some 12 different initiatives, including those aimed at shaping a common narrative on national identity. Recent discussions on a national history project have opened the door to preparing a national history curriculum for Liberia's

schools. And a technical team of Government, civil society and United Nations representatives is assessing how best to partner with peace committees, traditional leaders and civil society in order to make the Palava Hut initiative a reality, as also recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As the Secretary-General's report notes, land reform has advanced, with a new land rights policy to be followed by draft legislation. Land and the exploitation of Liberia's abundant natural resources remain cornerstones of the country's economic development, as well as powerful sources of potential conflict. The Government and many development partners acknowledge the need for transparent, responsible management and regulation of concession agreements and the resources they yield, including those intended for local development. This remains an important area for the country that requires priority attention.

In August, the Government issued a directive that 10 counties are to be audited, including those administering social development funds provided by concessions. And in June, the Forestry Development Authority issued letters of intent to terminate almost half of the 62 irregular private-use permits issued in the forestry sector. The lack of adequate consultation with affected communities remains an issue, and a study is under way on citizens' engagement in natural resource management, at the Government's request. It will be important to institutionalize mechanisms allowing consistent dialogue between concessions and communities. The report notes the good progress made by the five land coordination centres, whose staff are being trained in alternative dispute resolution and mediation skills.

Corruption in general remains a very significant handicap, affecting the functioning of national institutions, public confidence in those institutions and the pace of economic development. The President's recent dismissals of senior Government officials are described in the report. Since then, 18 officers have been dismissed from the Liberia National Police for extortion and excessive absenteeism; numerous others have been suspended. It is hoped that such resolute steps will send a strong message to those carrying the public's trust at all levels.

One year ago, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) initiated a calibrated, three-phase military drawdown process endorsed by the Council. The Mission has focused on executing a steady, well-planned and responsible military drawdown. It completed the first phase on 30 June, with all designated personnel and equipment repatriated in good order and on schedule. UNMIL no longer has a fixed military presence in four of Liberia's counties, and has deployed formed police unit personnel to areas considered potential hotspots for insecurity and to serve as backup to specialized units of the Liberia National Police. The first of the Mission's three newly appointed formed police units, from Nepal, has been on the ground for six months; the second, from China, is due to deploy in October. That police presence remains essential, both to enable the Mission to serve as a needed backup to national authorities and to maintain public confidence in Liberia's security during the transition. The Mission has also retained its civilian and United Nations Police advisory presence in all counties in order to continue supporting local Government and police structures, which remain weak.

This phased approach to drawdown has permitted the Government and UNMIL to develop close, routine and effective joint transition planning mechanisms. UNMIL has now closed 11 locations and handed over eight to Government entities. However, the Liberian security forces have not been able to scale up their presence and operational effectiveness in order to assume the increased security responsibilities, and they remain severely constrained by weak mobility, resources and administration.

Demands on the Government will become more acute as this transition progresses. The UNMIL military contingent expects to vacate a further three counties by April 2014. That will require the Government to sustain an effective security presence in more of the country and across a broader range of vital duties, including static guarding and cash escorts.

However, the 2013-2014 national budget reduces allocations for the police, and limited transition-specific funding has been set aside. Even though the National Police Training Academy has been physically expanded to train 600 recruits a year, only 99 officers have graduated in the past 12 months. The graduation of another 148 has been delayed since May, in part due to budget constraints, while the current class of 293, which is in field training, is due to graduate next February.

The immediate challenges posed by the UNMIL drawdown and the long-term importance of the rule

of law for a stable Liberia make it essential that the Government and its partners redouble their efforts to develop capable and accountable justice and security sectors. A more focused, prioritized approach to institutional development is needed. To that end, a high-level retreat on the security sector will be held next week, co-organized by the Government, the United Nations and the Government of Sweden. The retreat will bring together a wide range of national and international actors involved in security sector development, including Ambassador Tillander of the Peacebuilding Commission. The retreat will consider recommendations of several joint studies, including a baseline capacity assessment of the Liberia National Police, a review of management and accountability mechanisms within the police, judiciary and prosecution, and a United Nations mapping of gaps in Liberia's security sector.

The legislature has begun following up on the very many audit reports it has received from the general auditing commission over the years. That and regular dialogue between the executive and the legislature are particularly important for the role of the legislature in policy development and oversight, as well as in representing the interests of its constituents. In July, UNMIL and the legislature initiated a periodic direct dialogue on a range of issues central to Liberia's reform agenda.

Looking ahead, Liberia's next presidential elections in 2017 will be a political watershed moment. A foretaste of the tenor of those elections may come in October 2014, when 15 senatorial seats, or one per county, will be contested. As well, Liberia's security remains intertwined with that of its neighbours. Strengthening regional approaches remains imperative to security as well as to development.

The situation along the border with Côte d'Ivoire has remained calm for the past six months and tensions have eased. Eight Ivorians suspected of alleged involvement in cross-border attacks from Liberia into Côte d'Ivoire, including the June 2012 attack that killed seven peacekeepers of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), still await a ruling on whether Liberia will accede to an Ivorian extradition request.

Since the second quadripartite meeting in April among the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, UNMIL and UNOCI, the parties have worked to deliver on agreed commitments, including successful high-level strategic engagement and increased operational cooperation on the ground. The four parties met in June in western Côte d'Ivoire and again last week in Monrovia to plan joint security operations along the border, which will take place this November and in January 2014. Preparations have also advanced for the first-ever cross-border meeting of chiefs and elders — another quadripartite meeting outcome — and the meeting is on track to be held next month.

The April quadripartite meeting also agreed to revive a tripartite commission on humanitarian and refugee issues comprising the two Governments and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This year, over 11,000 Ivorian refugees have repatriated voluntarily, leaving fewer than 59,000 Ivorian refugees in Liberia, down from over 200,000 at the height of the crisis. Some new arrivals continue to be registered in Liberia, and continued efforts are needed to create conditions favourable for return to Côte d'Ivoire.

The anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has been an opportunity to celebrate just how far Liberia has come. The country should be proud of its significant achievements. And yet it remains fragile, with a sense of a unified nationhood still a work in progress and small-scale outbreaks of violence still routine. Important underlying cleavages and tensions await resolution. Increased economic activity and growth bring with them new challenges of management, oversight, the judicious use of financial resources and a fair distribution of national wealth.

Speaking at the recent launch of a high-level panel on fragile States, President Johnson-Sirleaf underlined the importance of going beyond conventional growth-driven poverty reduction and addressing the linkages between peacebuilding, State-building and governance. It is helpful that Liberia's development partners increasingly employ a fragility perspective in their work. Liberia will need to stay the course, now and for decades to come. The United Nations stands with the Government, partners, civil society and others in our shared dedication to preventing any return to the ways of the past.

The President: I thank Ms. Landgren for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Tillander.

Mr. Tillander: Let me express my appreciation for the invitation to give the perspective of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on key peacebuilding challenges facing Liberia.

The PBC country configuration for Liberia — with its approximately 40 member States — offers support based on the statement of mutual commitments, and in close collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The Liberian Agenda for Transformation, together with the Government's commitment to the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, and the forthcoming compact, provide focus on State- and peacebuilding goals with which the statement of mutual commitments should be aligned.

In line with the Council's request to the PBC in resolution 2066 (2012), I will first discuss how progress can be accelerated on national reconciliation, and then on the security sector and rule of law. After that, I will make some remarks on other peacebuilding challenges.

National reconciliation is recognized as a core peacebuilding priority and a critical component of Liberia's Agenda for Transformation. This includes mending relations between the State and society and among communities and individuals. Ten years after the civil war ended, Liberia needs to deal with those issues and embark on the reconciliation process without further delay. The PBC has interacted frequently and continuously with the responsible Minister and other actors to support implementation.

Since March, when I touched upon that issue in my briefing to the Council (see S/PV.6941), only limited progress has been made. As I said then, this is an area where there is a need for leadership and resolve. The time has now come for the Government to translate its political commitment into a priority for implementation and action. The activities contained in the National Reconciliation Road Map are ready, the Road Map has been launched, the roles and responsibilities are clarified, and the activities should be implemented in an inclusive and coordinated manner without further delay.

The Government has the primary responsibility for financing the reconciliation process. While funds allocated in last year's budget were widely recognized as an important commitment, they were for the most part not released and implementation was delayed. Translating the commitment into action, including appropriate levels of funding in the national budget and releasing the necessary funds, would represent an important signal to the Liberian people and the international community.

I welcome the preparedness of United Nations agencies to support the reconciliation process and Government efforts. United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and UN-Women, have allocated funds to important aspects, such as the Palava Hut process, and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is providing flexible financing. Bilateral partners should do the same, on the basis of an effectively managed, coordinated and implemented National Reconciliation Road Map.

On security sector reform and the rule of law, the challenges are considerable. With a view to ensuring a seamless UNMIL transition, accelerating progress is vital. Next week, I will have the opportunity to take part in the security sector reform retreat in Monrovia, mentioned by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. As pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/479), a lack of Liberian police capacity, mobility, professional management and limited resources hampers the necessary progress required to keep step with the UNMIL transition. Also in terms of numbers, police strength has increased only marginally, as detailed by Special Representative Landgren. Progress in reforming and strengthening the judiciary has also been slow. However, the appointment of a new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presents an opportunity to press ahead and accelerate progress. We should make sure that this opportunity is fully supported and utilized.

The responsibility for speeding up progress in justice and security is shared among all of us. But first and foremost, the Government's commitment is key when it comes to reforms, implementation, the allocation of sufficient resources and ensuring the timely disbursement of allocated funds. To accelerate progress, the Government's efforts in those areas need to be stepped up.

The United Nations system has an important supportive role to play. The PBC fully supports the efforts of UNMIL in all aspects. The creative approaches used by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNMIL to fill specialized police posts are useful examples of how different United Nations

tools can be used to strengthen the Organization's work on the ground.

The United Nations system needs to perform effectively the tasks that it takes upon itself, including "Delivering as one", providing programme support and managing funding mechanisms. The independent review of the justice and security joint programme, including the trust fund, should offer a basis for strengthening such mechanisms. UNDP has proposed measures aimed at improving its contribution, in particular in the programming support and management of the trust fund. The security sector reform retreat next week will offer an opportunity for the United Nations system and bilateral partners to consult with the Government on rapid implementation.

The PBC is prepared to do what we can to support the Government's efforts in the marshalling of resources for justice and security. But such efforts will be difficult if the Government's budget commitment for the sector is perceived as insufficient, if funds are not being released, if the funding mechanisms are not working effectively and if the justice and security hubs are not providing services as expected. Support from partners is more likely to increase when concrete goals and benchmarks are in place and clearly communicated, when funding mechanisms are effectively managed, when there is an efficiently operating joint programme for implementation and the setting of priorities and when progress is accelerating.

The holistic context of a coordinated programme will also be necessary to facilitate the provision of justice- and security-related services around the country. The first hub, in Gbarnga, is providing services and has an impact in a number of key areas, but it is still not functioning at the expected level of full operationality. As I now understand it, the court will be inaugurated only towards the end of the year. The repeated delays are troubling and, for the coming hubs, lessons must be learned and applied. For the second and third hubs, the intention is still to inaugurate and celebrate the delivery of services in the second quarter of 2014. For that to be possible, UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services, as implementing partners, must do their part, together with the Government, and thus show how the hub concept can be effectively implemented. That will also make partners more willing to give the support needed for the full implementation of the five planned justice and security hubs throughout Liberia.

Let me now move on to some other peacebuilding challenges. On gender-related issues, Liberian grass roots groups and civil society have played a strong and constructive role, and continue to do so. That role is even more important in view of the widespread sexual and gender-based violence, including against children, and the shortcomings in taking legal action against perpetrators. In line with resolution 2106 (2013), efforts need to be stepped up, in terms of both specific gender-focused activities and actions to reform and strengthen the criminal justice system..

I am pleased to note that the proposal for PBF funding in Liberia for the coming years includes an increased allocation for gender-focused activities, which would appropriately leave us with a funding level considerably above the 15 per cent target set by the Secretary-General. In upcoming PBC visits and in close cooperation with UNMIL and UN-Women, I will continue the dialogue with the Minister of Gender on those issues, as well as with civil society organizations.

Women's organizations and civil society actively participated in the high-level meeting initiated by the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) held in Dakar at the end of June, on a subregional strategy for the Mano River Union. I salute UNOWA and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Djinnit on that initiative. Strengthening the Mano River Union and the strategy, taking into account security and development, is an important contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. We should all consider ways to lend our support.

As mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, there are concerns about a lack of oversight, revenue issues and corruption related to land and natural resources. During the most recent PBC visit to Liberia, in May, I had an opportunity to participate in a conference on the topic, which was arranged by civil society, with active Government and business participation. This is an issue where civil society plays an important role, and the conference offered a constructive opportunity for a frank and open dialogue.

The Government of Liberia has expressed its intention to fight corruption. Some actions have been taken, but progress remains slow. Further actions should be encouraged, measures should be implemented, oversight strengthened, perpetrators taken to court and those guilty held responsible.

The international community needs to strengthen its coordinated support to Liberia in this area. I am pleased to note that the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is currently considering a PBF contribution aimed at promoting concerted action by the World Bank, the African Development Bank, bilateral partners and the United Nations in support of Liberia in conflict-sensitive and sustainable land and natural resources management. Indeed, the PBF could be more proactively employed to promote such cooperation among the international financial institutions and the United Nations system in other areas as well. I will continue to make that point in my discussions with the PBSO and with the relevant actors in Liberia.

The PBC welcomes the inclusion of the concepts of fragility and peacebuilding in the strategies for Liberia recently adopted by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. It will be essential to maintain that fragility perspective in the implementation of the strategies. During the PBC visit to Liberia next week, I intend to continue the dialogue with the international financial institutions on how we can best work together to ensure synergies and mutual support.

The PBC visit next week will focus on security sector reform and national reconciliation. I will also consult with the Government and partners on how we can best support Government efforts on resource mobilization. In preparing for the visit, I welcome input, and I am, as always, available for consultations. The visit should provide a basis for accelerated progress on key peacebuilding challenges and guide the support of the PBC on justice, security, reconciliation, gender issues, land issues and natural resources.

The President: I thank Mr. Tillander for his briefing

I now give the floor to the representative of Liberia.

Mr. Samukai (Liberia): Allow me, at the outset, to express my Government's deep appreciation to the Security Council for its consistent support to the maintenance of peace in Liberia. It is a privilege for me to bring my Government's perspective to today's important discussion on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which has been convened under the presidency of Australia. The Government of Liberia is also grateful to its many bilateral partners, some of which are represented in the Council, for their continued valuable support to Liberia's development.

The twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/479) on UNMIL presents a succinct overview of the prevailing political, socioeconomic and security situation in Liberia at this critical juncture in the transition process. I wish to commend the Secretary-General for his report, which, in our view, brings out in a cogent manner the progress that has been achieved and the challenges that still lie ahead. In the same vein, I would also like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Karin Landgren and Ambassador Staffan Tillander for their statements and the useful observations they put forward. I join them in emphasizing that, while Liberia has the primary responsibility for shaping its future, the continued support and partnership of the donor community are indispensable to success.

Last month, on 18 August, Liberia celebrated 10 years of uninterrupted peace and stability under the theme "Never again to war". Indeed, the past 10 years have seen determined efforts to consolidate peace by promoting reconciliation, building democratic institutions, initiating reforms across all sectors and pursuing development. The commemoration of that national milestone provided an opportunity for all Liberians to reaffirm their commitment to peace, security and development.

The Secretary-General's report correctly describes the security situation in Liberia as stable but fragile. That means that Liberia and its partners must focus concerted efforts on reducing the level of fragility. It is in consideration of that imperative that the Liberian Government and UNMIL conducted an extensive transition planning process, which resulted in a responsible road map for the reconfiguration of UNMIL, which the Council endorsed in 2012 in resolution 2066 (2012). The resolution provides for a phased reconfiguration of the UNMIL presence in Liberia over a three-year period.

It is the assessment of the Liberian Government that the first year of the implementation of UNMIL's transition road map has proceeded according to plan. The process also brought into focus the realistic challenges of post-conflict development and the resource and capacity gaps to be bridged in achieving our agenda for transformation.

The Liberia National Police (LNP) serves as the lead agency in the implementation of the tasks assigned by the road map. Over the past months, the LNP has

taken over the duties and areas of responsibility transferred to the Government by UNMIL. However, personnel and logistics constraints remain huge challenges for the LNP. Training is a vital component of the transition and an important means of building capacity. Acute financial shortfalls linked to unmet revenue projections have hampered the optimal use of facilities at the National Training Academy, making it difficult to meet the timeline for the deployment of police and immigration personnel.

Notwithstanding those initial setbacks, the Government of Liberia remains firmly committed to the road map as agreed. In that regard, I hasten to mention that the LNP and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization concluded plans to expand their capacity and have undertaken vetting exercises to increase their forces in the next three years.

In furtherance of the transition plan, the Government of Liberia is appropriating in its 2013/2014 budget an amount of about $10 million for the security and justice sectors. The Government will continue to seek avenues for additional support through the budgetary process and from its partners.

The Government of Liberia remains committed to the implementation of the 2011 Security Reform and Intelligence Act, which calls for the rationalization of security agencies, including the National Bureau of Investigation and the Ministry of National Security. The Act is being implemented in stages. Here again separate allocations have been incorporated into the 2013/14 budget to provide severance pay for employees who will be laid off; retirement benefits and pensions, through the Civil Service Agency, for employees that have reached the age of retirement; and for the redeployment of some employees to other agencies.

Access to justice is a fundamental human right. It underpins the initiative to reform the judicial and criminal justice systems so that they become more accessible and affordable. That is why the Government values highly its engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission and its critical support for the establishment of five justice and security hubs in the various counties, only one of which has been constructed thus far. Those hubs, when completed, will facilitate access to justice by Liberians in the rural areas; the decentralization of justice and security institutions; and the reinforcement of civil administration in the various counties. The Government has recommitted itself to adequately supporting and sustaining hub operations.

The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have been undergoing robust tactical and technical training to protect the territorial integrity of the country. The AFL is positioning itself to assist the civil administration in specific support missions when required and preparing to participate in regional and international peace initiatives when so ordered. The Government of Liberia recognizes the full support provided by the United States Government to date in assisting the AFL in its efforts to prepare itself.

Currently, an enhanced platoon from the AFL is serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. We are seeing the positive effect of collaboration between the military and security forces of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia in monitoring activities along their common border.

The Government intends to increase the personnel capacity and capability of the Liberian Coast Guard to address transnational crimes and illicit activities in our territorial waters. Again, the Liberian Government wishes to thank the United States Government for its generosity in building the capacity of the Liberian Coast Guard.

The Government is aware of the potential risk of conflict resulting from any improper handling of land rights and the management of our natural resources. The Government will continue to fully engage all stakeholders of various communities in the decision-making process where there is potential for investment in the development of our natural resources.

Finally, Liberia remains grateful to the United Nations, especially UNMIL, and to the wider international community for the crucial role that they continue to play in preserving peace and stability in Liberia. My Government is committed to continuing its collaboration with UNMIL and other stakeholders in ensuring the timely and full implementation of the transition plan. We believe that the transition plan has been carefully calibrated to take into account the resources and capabilities of the Liberian Government as well as the challenges of reconciliation and healing. Any initiative aimed at accelerating or fast-tracking the transition process could have a destabilizing effect and undermine the gains already made. We support the recommendation of the Secretary-General for the

extension of the mandate of UNMIL for a further year and urge the Council fully to endorse it.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7030

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7030th meeting
Thursday, 12 September 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Huseynli
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Laassel
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Lee Kyung Chul
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/521)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/521)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Nicholas Kay, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, to participate in this meeting. On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Kay, who is today giving his first briefing to the Council in his capacity as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, I invite Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/521, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kay.

Mr. Kay: I thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to brief the Council for the first time since assuming my appointment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, and in fact my first time ever. I am particularly glad to be here today with Ambassador Annadif of the African Union, whose presence represents our close collaboration as we discharge our two mandates from the Council.

This is a good time for some stocktaking on Somalia, one year after the new Federal Government was established and 90 days after the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).

Before going into some detail on political and security issues, let me start by answering the question all Special Representatives of the Secretary-General probably hear the most: "Are you optimistic?" The answer in my case is a resounding "yes". Behind the twists and turns, the crises and the standoffs, Somalia has the foundations for progress. The international community is united behind a credible, legitimate Federal Government. There are resources available to meet the most immediate needs. There is the political will to compromise and manage disputes without resorting to violence, and the Somali people I have met are tired of war and deprivation and fed up with brinkmanship and predatory politics.

The heart of the political challenge is simple to describe, if rather difficult to solve. After 22 years of conflict, power and control of resources and revenue are fragmented. The strong centralist State has ceased to exist. Different regions and different people now hold different bits of power. That is why Somalis have decided that a federal model is the only system that will work in this new reality. The task now is to reconcile and agree among themselves exactly how federalism will work in practice. How will they share power, revenue, resources and responsibilities in a way that benefits all of Somalia? Those are difficult issues, but ones that need political solutions.

That is why, in my first three months, I have prioritized the need for progress on the constitutional review and constructive engagement with the regions, travelling to Puntland and Somaliland and engaging closely with stakeholders on the Juba question.

If a week is a long time in politics, the 90 days of UNSOM in Somalia is an age. Allow me to brief the Council on a number of important recent developments since the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/521).

The situation in the Juba regions was one of the most serious issues to face the Federal Government. In early June, the risks were very high of a collapse in security and political stalemate in Kismaayo, as well as between the Juba parties and Mogadishu. However, an agreement was finally reached on 28 August in Addis Ababa, under the active mediation of Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on behalf of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which set out interim governance, security and economic arrangements. I supported the negotiations in the closing stages and attended the signing ceremony in Addis Ababa. Some outstanding issues still remain, and

implementation will require goodwill from all parties and significant support. UNSOM, I am glad to say, has established a presence in Kismaayo to ensure it is able to help as required across all areas of its mandate, working closely with the African Union (AU). We are concerned to hear of the attack today on the convoy of the interim leader of the Juba administration, and I have called for calm and restraint from all sides.

To the north, the relationship between Somaliland and Somalia remains sensitive and fragile. Nevertheless, there is progress to report. With the mediation of Turkey, the two parties have had two sessions of talks this year. The agreement on the shared management of airspace could be a model for other areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. We urge both sides to focus on solutions, however modest, rather than problems. The presence of UNSOM in Somaliland is still on hold at the request of the local authorities, who do not accept that UNSOM has a mandate in Somaliland. I remain committed to finding a way to break that impasse. I am also offering my good offices to Puntland for its internal political processes, and to assist in confidence-building between the Puntland administration and the Federal Government. I am again working closely with the Chair of the IGAD Council on this.

One of the key tasks facing Somalia is agreement on a final Federal Constitution. The United Nations is supporting a broad process of popular consultations that should clarify several key areas that remain contentious. A long, hard process of consultation and negotiation lies ahead, which we shall support. On 2 September, UNSOM backed the launch of a national political conference entitled "Vision 2016', at which the President of Somalia restated his commitment to a new Constitution and elections by 2016.

In less than a week from today, another key building block of Somalia's stabilization will be put in place. Some 200 delegates will gather in Brussels on Monday, hosted jointly by the European Union and the Federal Government. The New Deal compact is a Somali-led and Somali-owned set of priorities and milestones for achieving them, and an architecture for international support, coordination and funding. In Brussels, the Somali Government and the international community will endorse the compact to confirm mutual commitment to those priorities. The true test of the compact will be in how it makes a difference in people's daily lives. The United Nations in Somalia will play its part to the full, especially in helping the Government to coordinate international assistance. I thank the European Union for its key role in the process and will continue to work closely with it in this and other areas of our support to Somalia in general. I hope that we will see real commitment from partners, especially to the new financial and coordination mechanisms being proposed.

So there is progress on the political front. Parliament has shown itself to be a key driver. But there is no room for complacency. There is still time to agree on a new Constitution through an inclusive process, vote on it and then hold free and fair elections in Somalia. But it is a big hill to climb and we must all pick up the pace.

Other than politics, much of our initial focus has been on security. Our presence in Mogadishu is to a large extent possible only because of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and I pay tribute to the courage, determination and sacrifice of the troop- and police-contributing countries and the leadership of the African Union Commission. The next phase will require more support. The exact needs for force enablers and multipliers, sufficient and predictable financing and a new concept of operations will emerge from the report of the joint United Nations-AU benchmarking mission in October. As the Council will hear from my friend and colleague Ambassador Annadif, the military and security dimension of defeating Al-Shabaab in Somalia is by no means over. The Somali national army is ready to do its part, and must be properly backed. I call on the Council to ensure that greater priority is given to strengthening the Somali national security forces and their ability to deploy and sustain joint operations with AMISOM. I trust that will be one of the main conclusions of the benchmarking team.

Beyond the challenges of politics and security, the United Nations is also actively engaged on other issues of vital importance to Somalia and the region — addressing humanitarian needs, human rights, gender equality and piracy. Access remains a major impediment and has contributed to the rapid spread of polio. Somalia now has more than 160 confirmed cases, more than half the world's caseload. Vital national immunization campaigns have taken place with local health-care workers negotiating access to hard-to-reach communities. The pullout of Médecins sans frontières is a severe blow to the health sector and a reminder of the importance for all parties of respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. While we have seen some improvements,

the food-security situation remains precarious. For the first time in five years, the number of people in crisis is below 1 million, but the number of people on the margin of food insecurity has increased to 2.3 million. That may be further exacerbated if the lifeline of Somali diaspora remittances is cut by international banks.

Some 1 million refugees are hosted in Somalia's neighbouring countries. While there has been a push lately for refugees to return to Somalia, it is not yet time for a large-scale repatriation. Spontaneous and voluntary returns in safe areas, however, must be supported with durable solutions.

We are pleased to be backing the Government's human-rights road map, its plan of action to be brought to the Human Rights Council in Geneva later this month. As a critical step in that action plan, I have called on the Somali Government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Childhood in Somalia can be a frightening experience. We continue to monitor with concern numerous grave violations of children's rights. In a more positive note for Somalia's children, a United Nations-supported go-to-school campaign was launched last Sunday, aimed at getting 1 million children into classrooms in the next three years. As a first step, for the first time in a decade, free schooling is being provided by the Government to 100,000 children today.

Sexual violence is one of the most serious and urgent human rights challenges facing the Government and people of Somalia. The commitment of both the Somali President and the leadership of AMISOM to a policy of zero-tolerance of sexual abuse is encouraging. It is clear, however, that much more robust systems of investigation and prosecution are needed, which should include the protection of survivors and witnesses.

While piracy is on the decline, the onshore networks that profited from it have not been dismantled. Law enforcement and corrections systems on land, as well as job opportunities, must be supported so that we treat the root causes of the problem. At a conference hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai just yesterday, a maritime strategy covering security and sustainable resource management was strongly endorsed. The United Arab Emirates deserves our thanks for that valuable initiative.

I want to thank the Council for its vision in establishing UNSOM. We are making good progress in setting up the Mission, with about 50 staff on board so far. Much greater capacity is needed to discharge the mandate, but we will expand only at a pace that allows us to be effective and reflects the Government's capacity to absorb our help.

Our effectiveness depends on our relationships. I have focused in particular on our relationship with the Federal Government, which I believe is strong. Second is the United Nations relationship with AMISOM. Ambassador Annadif and I are determined that our teams should work hand in hand. It is not a coincidence that we have come to brief the Council together today. We also work closely with IGAD. I look forward to the IGAD Partners Forum, to be hosted here in New York on the margins of the General Assembly.

Within the United Nations system I have also focused on relationships, which are key to UNSOM's mandate to provide one United Nations door for the Federal Government. We are on course to be formally integrated as a mission by 1 January, and are already working on the rule of law and security and constitutional review and human rights in joint teams. We are already working as a single United Nations senior management team.

Our United Nations family in Somalia experienced a dark hour when our common compound was attacked on 19 June. We lost one staff member of the United Nations Development Programme and seven contractors and guards. That tragedy has only deepened my resolve and commitment to the Mission. We are reviewing security arrangements for our staff, and I remain urgently in need of a fully functioning guard-force capacity, as has been recommended by the Council. The African Union-United Nations benchmark exercise looked at some options, which are currently being considered.

I would like to leave the Council with three key messages for its consideration. First, in Somalia the people, Government and international partners are on the brink of achieving great things — truly great things. In terms of rebuilding a shattered State and rescuing millions of people from conflict and poverty, we are standing on the very edge of great success.

Secondly, where we stand is also precarious. Success is not guaranteed. In no sense at all is the Somalia crisis over. We cannot afford to lessen our focus or investment, despite the many competing claims for our attention in the rest of the world. If we fail and Somalia slips back and Al-Shabaab prevails, we shall

feel the security impact from Bamako to Bangui and beyond Africa. Ideology respects no borders.

Thirdly, to get over the threshold and achieve great things, we need more. Much has been given in terms of support — and even more promised — but there are three areas in which we need to boost our effort if we are not to fail. First is support for the Somali National Security Forces — we have not achieved critical mass in terms of building their capacity; second are enhanced capabilities for AMISOM; and third is a well-resourced and coherent United Nations role in the exit strategy for AMISOM, which includes support to UNSOM and the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM, as well as the work of United Nations agencies in Somalia.

Working in Somalia is expensive. Keeping our staff safe costs real money. Ensuring success will cost more, but not very much compared to what the international community has spent in Iraq, Afghanistan and more recently Mali. Failure in Somalia is, however, still a risk. It is, I submit, a risk we cannot afford.

The President: I thank Mr. Kay for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Annadif.

Mr. Annadif (*spoke in French*): At the outset, on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, I would like to thank the Council for giving me the unique opportunity to update members on the situation in Somalia. I agree with my colleague Ambassador Kay that the evolution of the situation calls for optimism. Nonetheless, like all optimism, it should be tempered by the challenges that have to be met. Therefore, rather than dwell on the positive aspects that he so widely and brilliantly presented during his briefing, I would like to focus on the challenges that the Government must address and the challenges that face the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Before continuing with my presentation, I would like to convey the regrets and the apologies of Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra, who is not able to speak to the Council today. As members know, he was just appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country, Algeria. He asks the Council to accept his apologies.

With regard to the situation in Somalia, it is thanks to the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council that today AMISOM is able to achieve its mission with the support of three components that are in place on the ground. The military component, as the Council knows, is today made up of troops from Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Djibouti and Sierra Leone amounting to approximately 17,000 troops. There is a civilian component, with approximately 100 troops from different African countries. Their work is often complementary to the tasks of our friends in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia on the ground. There is also a police component, which is made up of two units — one from Nigeria with 140 police officers and the other from Uganda, also with 140 police officers. They patrol on a daily basis and help the Somali police with their mission. We also have instructors and trainers from Ghana, Gambia and other African countries, all of whom help our brothers in Somalia to ensure security. For the time being they are in Mogadishu, but they will soon move into other areas, including Kismayo, Baidoa and Beledweyne.

Since its inception, AMISOM has been undertaking its mission through the military, police and civilian components. Indeed, thanks to the Council's support and the proactive mandate entrusted to AMISOM, today we have achieved significant progress in the security and political arenas. Ambassador Kay has already ready briefed the Council on these, so I will not go into them, but I would just like to say that while we are currently seeing a positive dynamic unfolding in Somalia, there are still a number of challenges to be met.

On the political level, we are encouraged by the Government's determination to implement its policies. In that regard, Ambassador Kay also underscored a number of positive developments, some of which have been under way only since the beginning of the month. Those events were recently crowned by the important agreement of 28 August between the political leaders of Jubaland, in particular Ahmed Madobe, and the Somali Government. However, the entire positive dynamic is undermined by a number of challenges that, as I said, if not resolved, could lead to a reversal that would be regrettable for the entire international community. Indeed, contrary to the previous years of a failed State and anarchy in Somalia, today there is a responsible Government that, while beset by its own problems, is evolving in the right direction.

The first challenge is related to security. Despite the progress achieved against Al-Shabaab, especially in 2012 and early 2013, AMISOM wishes to stress that Al-Shabaab still has the ability to destabilize the

country and to derail our efforts. Since the beginning of the year, Al-Shabaab has deployed increasingly sophisticated harassment tactics that are the outcome of thorough preparation and training and enjoy financial support from sources that we are very close to being able to identify. The report of the Monitoring Group on the issue (S/2013/413) contains a number of leads in that respect.

We would draw attention to the suicide attack carried out on 19 June against the United Nations complex. More recently, an attack was perpetrated on 7 September against a very popular village restaurant frequented by civilians. Those are indications that setbacks could occur if we are not vigilant.

Indeed, extremist groups move freely throughout some 50 per cent of Somali territory, in particular the rural areas, where they continue to organize and train and where they have access to logistical support as well as to weapons and ammunition. The endeavours of the United Nations, though the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, which complement ours, must be underscored, because numerous efforts are currently under way to identify those sources and, ultimately, to cut them off.

The second challenge is within the Somali Government, namely, how to streamline the federal structure as stipulated in the provisional Constitution. Several regions are competing to be autonomous from the central Government, and interpretations often differ from one region to the other. But I think that we can welcome the agreement of 28 August between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the authorities of Jubaland, which is reassuring to all of us and offers positive prospects for the relationship between the FGS and the various regions that are making such claims.

The third challenge also pertains to the Government and is linked to its insufficient capacity. When AMISOM liberates areas, officials are appointed by the Somali Government who sometimes are not accepted by the local population and have no administrative structures in place to support them. Thus internal coordination among such structures remains a key challenge. That is compounded by the lack of understanding resulting from such contradictions among Government representatives or officials.

In addition, the Somali Government continues to face the humanitarian situation of which Ambassador Kay spoke, which includes displaced persons, refugees, unemployed youth and so on. The people are very keen to see their problems solved, and if, despite the hopes in that respect, there are no signs of improvement in the near future, those difficulties, which have become chronic, could lead to conflict. Indeed, the seeds of conflict are already there.

As Ambassador Kay has said, we are preparing for Brussels and the New Deal. We must ensure that in the wake of that event, the country enjoys a level of security adequate to ensure progress towards peace as well as the political and, especially, economic stability to which the Somali people aspire. Considerable efforts at the military level remain necessary and must go hand in hand with the political strategy. However, those efforts and objectives require consultation and further support on the part of all of Somalia's partners, because the challenges involved could have a negative impact on AMISOM's effectiveness.

As the Council is no doubt aware, the situation as concerns military operations must remain a top priority. Unfortunately, the strategic concept currently guiding AMISOM's operations is out of date. It is important that the Council be able to consider the issue of the number of elements receiving support, as well as the support provided to the Somali National Security forces, which Ambassador Kay spoke about earlier.

Two strategic considerations continue to pose real challenges. Despite the Council's vote for force multipliers, to date AMISOM has not really been able to mobilize the necessary force multipliers. Furthermore, the United Nations support mechanism, symbolized by the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), has procedures that often lead to our having problems obtaining the necessary support in a timely manner.

It is also extremely important from that standpoint to provide strong support to UNSOA so that it can meet the often difficult challenges on the ground, without which it will be very difficult to achieve the significant military objectives that we are aiming for. Furthermore, UNSOA support mechanisms should, thanks to the Council, be expanded to include training, which is currently provided by AMISOM to Somali forces.

We can therefore say that AMISOM and the Somali forces currently have a presence in the principal towns and provide security on key routes. However, the more territory we liberate, the more we become dispersed,

so we cannot at this time carry out many expansion operations. High hopes remain for AMISOM to provide greater security. However, AMISOM's campaign is experiencing difficulties, which it is important to meet so that we can truly take the last few steps, even though it is said that often the last few steps are the most difficult.

Recently the Chairperson of the AU Commission sent a letter to the Secretary-General, outlining requirements that remain pertinent. We welcome in advance the recommendations of the joint African Union-United Nations Information Support Team, which has just completed its mission in line with paragraph 19 of resolution 2093 (2013). We are convinced that with support for AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces that is focused on carefully-thought-out goals, we will be able to achieve the decisive progress that is expected in combating Al-Shabaab and improving the security situation, as well as averting any setbacks in Somalia, which is something that everyone fears. Such support should include, as I said earlier, an increase in the number of troops as well as logistical support for and intensive training of the Somali National Security Forces.

Before concluding, I would like to inform the members of the Security Council that the latest allegations of rape, made by a Somali woman against the Somali national forces and AMISOM, proved unfounded following several internal and external investigations. We in AMISOM have adopted a zero-tolerance policy on such issues. We now have at our disposal early-warning mechanisms and permanent investigation structures. We are also carrying out awareness-raising campaigns, both for AMISOM military staff and Somali populations. It that context, we have helped the Somali Government put in place a gender policy that will soon be presented to Parliament for a law to be adopted.

Finally, let me once again take this opportunity to convey, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, the gratitude of the African Union and AMISOM, which represents the AU on the ground, for the Council's unwavering support and tireless efforts to find solutions to the situation in Somalia. As my colleague has said, we remain optimistic. With a little effort, we can achieve the same thing that was accomplished recently in Mali so that the 2016 elections can take place throughout the whole of Somalia's territory.

The President: I thank Mr. Annadif for his briefing.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7031

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7031st meeting
Monday, 16 September 2013, 9.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2013/516)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-47482 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2013/516)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Tarek Mitri, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/516, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

At this meeting, the Council will hear briefings by Mr. Tarek Mitri and His Excellency Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana, Permanent Representative of Rwanda, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

I now give the floor to Mr. Mitri.

Mr. Mitri: The Security Council has received the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/516), which provides information on the work of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) over the past six months and offers a sober reading of the political and security developments in Libya during that period. A combination of internal and regional dynamics continues to place a huge strain on the political processes taking place in the country, which compounds further the difficult tasks facing the Libyan authorities — both the Government and the General National Congress — as they strive to ensure that the country's transition moves peacefully forward.

During the past three months, we have seen more pronounced political disagreements among the various political forces. The main political blocs within the General National Congress decided separately to suspend their participation as organized political parties in the work of national political institutions. Although partially reversed, those decisions were in large part a reaction to widespread popular discontent with political parties and, at the same, reflected an accentuated polarization of public life.

There is also a regional dimension to the significant political changes in Libya. Recent developments, particularly in Egypt and Tunisia, have had a palpable effect on the political scene and greatly influenced the behaviour of some political forces. Those events have injected a sense of unease into the political system, as different political actors reassessed their positions both with regard to the major problems confronting Libya and the region more generally.

The recent and severe disruption in the country's oil exports, following protests at a number of terminals, mostly in the east, has grave consequences for Libya's economic stability. The disruption has compelled Libya's National Oil Company to take the unprecedented measure of declaring a force majeure, indicating its inability to meet contractual export obligations. Conflicts related to oil terminal protection and federalist demands in eastern Libya are at the core of the protests.

In a country where oil revenues account for approximately 80 per cent of Libya's gross national product and 97 per cent of exports, the Libyan Government faces the dangerous prospect of not being able to meet its financial obligations unless a resolution to the crisis is reached immediately. We believe that the resolution of that crisis, as well as of the many others confronting Libya, through peaceful means is vital to the country's national interests and its ability to make meaningful progress in its transition. In that context, we also urge all parties to desist from the manipulation of Libya's resources for political ends.

With regard to the development of new legislation, the adoption of a law on transitional justice remains pending before the plenary of the General National Congress. UNSMIL believes that the passage of such a law is vital to helping Libya deal with many of its past tragedies and crimes. It is equally essential in facilitating the difficult process of national reconciliation.

The situation of many of the estimated 8,000 conflict-related detainees remains problematic. While the Ministry of Justice has reported a reduction in

complaints, reports of deaths in custody, torture and other forms of ill-treatment continue to be a source of concern. However, UNSMIL has observed a marked improvement in conditions and treatment of detainees in centres that are effectively under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and where there are experienced and trained judicial police officers.

There have been new developments regarding the trials of senior members of the Al-Qadhafi regime. Further to the conviction and sentencing to death on 31 July of Ahmad Ibrahim Al-Qadhafi, former Minister of Education and Information, the trials of some 250 defendants, including Saif al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, are expected to commence soon.

In that regard, UNSMIL continues to underline the need for a coherent approach to secure acceptable standards in the prosecution of former regime officials so as to avoid random charges and contribute to establishing a historical record of the crimes committed under the former regime. Ensuring fair trails for former regime officials will test the Libyan judicial institutions in the coming months. The prevailing security situation in the country and the continuing attacks on judges, lawyers and courthouses continue to present a formidable challenge to the authorities.

In spite of the numerous difficulties and uncertainties, I am pleased to report that the Libyan constitution-making process has made some progress, with the adoption by the General National Congress of a law for the election of the Constitution Drafting Assembly. UNSMIL had advocated for special measures for better representation of women in the Constitution Drafting Assembly. However, the adopted electoral law provides for limited representation for women, granting them six reserved seats in the 60-member Assembly, which is lower than the 16 per cent allotted to them in the July 2012 elections to the General National Congress.

For their part, cultural and ethnic minorities were granted six reserved seats. Some of their influential organizations and personalities are quite assertive in demanding that constitutional issues pertaining to their cultural and linguistic rights be decided upon by consensus rather than by a two-thirds majority of the 60-member Assembly, as stipulated in the Constitutional Declaration. The constitution-drafting process presents an opportunity for the Libyan people to forge a new social contract that will govern the new Libya, therefore making it imperative that it be transparent, consultative and inclusive.

The new Board of Commisionsers for the permanent High National Election Commission was recently selected. With the full support of the United Nations electoral team in the various areas of its work, the Commission is actively engaged in planning and preparing the elections to the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

The security problems in Libya are still, arguably, the predominant concern for the Libyan people. Since my last briefing to the Council (see S/PV.6981), there have been armed clashes in Tripoli between rival revolutionary brigades. Due to the limited State capacity to secure the capital, the newly elected President of the General National Congress, Mr. Nouri Abu-Sahmain, assigned the task of protecting the city to the Libyan Revolutionaries Operations Room, a coalition of revolutionary brigades.

Tensions among various political, tribal and armed groups have also escalated into confrontations in various parts of the country, resulting in several deaths. Assassinations of security figures, mostly in the east, and more recently of political activists and journalists, improvised explosive devices, attacks against members of the diplomatic community, threats against the United Nations and general criminality continue in the face of weak State security institutions. Border security is increasingly a critical issue that the authorities have yet to address effectively.

Progress in integrating revolutionary fighters into the police and the Libyan army remains very limited, as is their reintegration into civilian life. In an attempt to encourage revolutionaries to enlist in the army and to improve the salary scale for current uniformed personnel, the Government recently announced an increase in salaries for the military, effective from January 2014. The Government has also announced that it is moving forward with the training of between 12,000 and 15,000 soldiers outside of Libya. Restructuring the army and addressing the inflated ranks of the officer corps are urgent priorities. The Libyan police continue to integrate individuals from the armed brigades. Some are already enlisted and many more are in the vetting and enrolment process.

The Government's preoccupation with the deteriorating security situation and the increasing divisions among political groups and revolutionary

brigades have all inhibited the development of a solid, coordinated and effective national security system.

When I last briefed the Council in June, I alluded to the enormous difficulties confronted in the aftermath of four decades of despotic rule. Next month marks the two-year anniversary since the fall of the authoritarian Al-Qadhafi regime. It is more evident today that preconceived ideas about political transition are likely to be a recipe for disappointment, if not failure. Free and fair elections may have augured a democratic process, but they raised greater expectations than the political institutions and forces have been capable of meeting.

Today, there is a sense of scepticism, and perhaps of rejection, with which the Libyan people view the political process. But this should not be mistaken for a loss of faith in national unity, democracy and the rule of law. Their commitment to the principles for which they fought their revolution remains deep. The Libyan experience has demonstrated the urgent need for an inclusive dialogue and consensus-building on national priorities during the transition period, as well as regarding guiding principles, norms of governance and basic rules of political action.

In response to the increasing demand across the political spectrum for a national dialogue that can address the country's faltering transition, the Libyan authorities agreed on preparing and convening this dialogue. A national dialogue would provide a platform for engaging political, revolutionary, traditional and other actors in discussing urgent national issues and seeking consensus on strategies, as well as basic principles, that ought to govern political life in the transitional period until the adoption of a new constitution and the holding of new elections.

In my meetings with the leadership of the General National Congress and the Government, I noted a shared belief that a national dialogue process would allow for the Libyan national interest to prevail over factional, regional and short-term interests. In the light of the growing disillusionment with the political process, such a dialogue would give voice to many Libyans and open a space that does not exclude any of those who may have contributions to make to public life and who are otherwise isolated, separated or entrenched in their partisan attitudes. It would also promote a national capacity to address urgent priorities and ensure public support for State-building efforts, particularly in the security and justice sectors.

There has been an increasing number of calls for the United Nations to play an active role in initiating and facilitating national dialogue. We will not shy away from shouldering our responsibility but will continue to insist that the process should be Libyan-convened and Libyan-led. I have assured the Libyan authorities time and again, as well as many political leaders and opinion-makers, of our readiness and commitment to giving advice and technical support to dialogue endeavours, whatever form they may take. It is our hope that those efforts will come to fruition in the near future.

The President: I thank Mr. Mitri for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Gasana.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): In accordance with paragraph 24 (e) of resolution 1970 (2011) of 26 February 2011, I have the honour to report to the Security Council on the work of the Committee established pursuant to the same resolution. The report covers the period from 19 June to 16 September 2013, during which time the members of the Committee met once in informal consultations.

On 2 July, the Committee received the interim report of the Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2095 (2013). I will briefly recapitulate parts of the executive summary of that document.

Concerning the arms embargo, the Panel concluded that the Libyan authorities had taken concrete steps in the security assistance area to implement resolution 2095 (2013), such as the establishment of a focal point structure for security assistance, which had already produced the first few end-user certificates. Despite those efforts, the Panel cautioned that more still needed to be done in that regard.

The Panel expressed its concern about the proliferation of arms and ammunition across all of Libya's borders and noted an increasing number of reported cases of trafficking of arms and ammunition from Libya to the Syrian Arab Republic by sea and air. Concerning arms proliferation within Libya, the Panel reported that the increasing demand for personal and small arms had boosted imports of materiel into the civilian black market in Libya. In that context, the Panel reported on several seizures that were made by third countries.

Concerning the travel ban, the Panel stated that of the 20 individuals originally falling under the travel

ban, five were deceased, four were currently being detained in Libya, four were living in other countries and the whereabouts of seven individuals remained unknown. The Panel further reported that both the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of Algeria had indicated that Aisha Al-Qadhafi and Mohammed Al-Qadhafi had left Algeria and were present in Oman.

With regard to the assets freeze, the Panel reported that it had obtained access in part to further revealing details of the efforts made by Saadi Al-Qadhafi and his associates to hide, move and use assets that should have been frozen, and that it was investigating reports of very large quantities of assets believed to belong to listed entities and/or individuals. The Panel underscored the inadequacies of some Member States in their legislative capacity to properly and effectively implement the assets freeze measure, which at least in one instance had resulted in the dissipation of almost $2 million in funds that should have been frozen.

The Committee discussed the report and recommendations of the Panel of Experts in informal consultations on 10 July. The report was generally well received, and the main points that emerged in the discussion were the following: concern with the reported violations and with the destabilizing effect of arms proliferation outside of Libya, in particular to the Syrian Arab Republic; welcoming the establishment by the Libyan authorities of certain procedures aimed at improving the situation, while acknowledging that more needed to be done; acknowledgement of the movement of two listed individuals from Algeria to the Sultanate of Oman; challenges faced by Member States regarding the implementation of the assets freeze and the possibility of repatriating frozen funds; welcoming the good relationship between the Panel and the Libyan Government; ways in which the Panel could be assisted with its requests for visits and for information; and how to carry forward the recommendations of the Panel of Experts.

Of the eight recommendations, the Committee agreed to take follow-up action on four. One recommendation required no action and the Committee simply took note of it, while the three remaining recommendations were addressed to the Security Council. As a follow-up to the meeting, the Panel was requested to thoroughly investigate information provided by media reports on several large shipments of arms from Libya that took place this year.

The agreed action on the four recommendations of the Panel consisted of the following. After having received on 18 July further information from the Permanent Mission of Libya on the focal point structure for security assistance, on 7 August the Committee wrote a letter to the Permanent Representative of Libya requesting further clarification and follow-up of outstanding issues, which was responded to on 4 September by the Permanent Mission of Libya. On 29 July and 4 September, the Committee updated the entries concerning Aisha Al-Qadhafi and Mohammed Al-Qadhafi in its list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and/or assets freeze. On 13 September, the Committee dispatched follow-up letters to six Member States concerning outstanding requests for visits by the Panel.

On 24 July, the Committee shared with the Libyan Government an unofficial and informal table that summarized the exemption requests and notifications relating to the arms embargo measures that were imposed by resolution 1970 (2011) and modified by resolutions 2009 (2011) and 2095 (2013) and processed through the Committee, from its inception until 10 July 2013.

On 27 August, the Committee updated its second implementation assistance notice on the arms embargo, reflecting modifications introduced by resolution 2095 (2013).

Also during the reporting period, the Committee concluded its agreement with INTERPOL on INTERPOL-Security Council special notices and reviewed a request for delisting from the travel ban by Aisha Al-Qadhafi.

Lastly, I would like to mention some updated statistics on issues that the Committee has dealt with since the last periodic report to the Council. In relation to the arms embargo, the Committee approved two exemption requests and received five notifications, on which no negative decision was taken. The Committee also responded to three requests for guidance from Member States.

The President: I thank Ambassador Gasana for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to address the Security Council. Allow me first to congratulate

you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. I am confident that you will lead its deliberations to a successful conclusion.

Before addressing the substance of the issue under consideration, I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the need for procedures in the Secretariat that enable representatives of Member States under discussion in the Security Council to participate more easily in its deliberations. We know that in some cases, for one reason or another, a request for participation may reach the President of the Security Council or the Secretariat late, because of a shortcoming in one area or another. However, we have always had a structure in the Secretariat that allows for an immediate invitation to participate. Regrettably, this morning, that only happened long after the meeting had begun.

I would like to thank Mr. Tarek Mitri for his important and accurate briefing and for all the information he has provided on the situation in Libya. I should like to thank my dear friend and colleague the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), for his briefing on the implementation of sanctions against Libya.

As the Council knows, Libya is in a period of transition. This is a complicated and sensitive time, in particular given a bloody conflict that lasted many months and ended in the fall of a dictatorship. The country was left with no institutions to speak of. What is at issue now is the creation of a new authority, new institutions and, indeed, new leadership for the country. The Government and the General National Congress are facing difficulties in this thorny period, where many different elements are converging. On the one hand, there is delight at the overthrow of the dictatorship and the re-establishment of democracy, with high expectations from the populace. On the other hand, there is the Government's limited ability to rule, a lack of institutions and an absence of deterrent force for the Government to be able to extend its control over the entire territory.

The Libyan authorities need the support of the Council. We need the support of every single State Member of the United Nations at this point. Libya is moving towards building effective, capable institutions that will rebuild the State, begin to revitalize the economy, reintegrate former combatants, ensure respect for the rule of law and achieve national reconciliation. There are many objectives to achieved, and they require strong leadership, strong institutions and a robust capacity for deterrent force. Of course, the Government has begun to set up the national army. The Government is seeking to reform, re-establish and re-arm the police force. That requires that the Security Council provide all possible assistance. The Council stood shoulder to shoulder with the Libyan people during its revolution and in recent times, and I am sure that it will continue to stand by us now.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7032

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7032nd meeting
Tuesday, 17 September 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Munir
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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13-47706 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Serry.

Mr. Serry: Developments in the region remain profoundly troubling, and the Security Council was briefed yesterday by the Secretary-General on the situation in Syria. As those events have already been well covered this month, my briefing today will continue to focus on efforts for renewed peace prospects in the Middle East, which should not be neglected, even against the background of turmoil elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

The resumption on 29 July of direct negotiations with the agreed objective of achieving a peaceful, comprehensive settlement on all final status issues within a nine-month time frame has been widely welcomed. As indicated by Under-Secretary-General Feltman in his horizon briefing on 4 September, the Secretary-General returned from the region encouraged by what he deemed to be a demonstrable seriousness by both President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu to resume direct talks, despite skepticism from their domestic bases, as the only viable path through which a two-State solution may still be achieved.

In a sign of support for the bold decision taken by the leaders, regional and international partners pursued their diplomatic engagement with the parties. United States Secretary of State Kerry, credited for the renewed momentum, met with President Abbas on 8 September in London and Prime Minister Netanyahu on 15 September in Jerusalem. He also continued his regular consultations with members of the Arab League Peace Initiative Follow-up Committee in Paris, as the region's engagement on a solution is vital. On 26 August, Foreign Minister Fahmy visited Ramallah, signalling Egypt's commitment to a comprehensive peaceful settlement to the conflict. The Quartet has lent its full backing to that political initiative, and principals and envoys are scheduled to meet next week.

The negotiating teams have been engaged in several rounds of talks, and we encourage both sides to accelerate and intensify their discussions. It is perhaps understandable that the skeptics continue to question the substance of the talks. However, at this stage, public comments would be counterproductive, and the parties' commitment to not revealing the contents of their sensitive negotiations should be respected as a signal of their resolve to overcome the deep divisions that exist on key issues. There are formidable challenges ahead and they cannot be underestimated.

The international community has long supported the vision of a two-State solution and now has a responsibility to give efforts towards that end a chance. But the onus to sustain an enabling environment lies with the parties. Both should refrain from actions that risk undermining the prospects of negotiations. And we urge them to act responsibly and with restraint. Concurrently, any substantial political initiative must yield early dividends in the immediate period ahead, with tangible improvements to security and socioeconomic conditions for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

In that context, we welcome the decision taken on 8 September by the Israeli Government to increase the number of work permits for West Bank Palestinians by 5,000 to a total of 50,000. Noteworthy too is the agreement between the Israeli and Palestinian agriculture ministries to revive some of the joint committees first formed in the 1990s under the Oslo Accords. We look forward to further such steps that would increase Palestinian and Israeli economic cooperation, ease restrictions on access and movement of Palestinians, and lead to tangible improvements on the ground in both the West Bank and Gaza. In that regard, we hope ongoing discussions will soon produce results.

The foregoing are issues we shall also address in next week's ministerial meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians (AHLC), which comes at a more hopeful time. The meeting is expected to discuss a Palestinian economic initiative, developed in close consultation with Quartet Representative Blair and

United States experts, that should mutually reinforce and complement the political track. The United Nations report to the AHLC highlights steps towards expanding Palestinian economic activity, including in Area C, to improve the lives of Palestinians and increase revenue through taxation for the Palestinian Authority. In the short to medium terms, donors must continue to provide timely and predictable direct budget support.

However, as also highlighted in the reports of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, all socioeconomic trends indicate that the status quo is not sustainable absent real political progress, pointing to dire consequences for Israelis and Palestinians alike. We sincerely hope that the resumption of negotiations marks the beginning of closing the gap, renewing hope for a final status agreement in which Palestinians can realize their rightful aspirations for an independent and viable Palestinian State, and Israelis can meet their legitimate security needs and become a full partner in the development of a stable and prosperous Middle East. Another opportunity may not present itself soon.

Stability in the West Bank is all the more critical as talks are ongoing, and parties should exert all efforts to avoid violence. Israeli security forces carried out some 282 operations, during which five Palestinians died in Jenin and Qalandia refugee camps on 20 and 26 August, respectively. We strongly deplore those losses of life, including of one employee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Additional clashes took place in early September in the vicinity of refugee camps, as well as at Al-Quds University in Abu Dis. Demonstrations, including against the barrier, also continued, resulting in 32 Palestinian injuries. A total of 169 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces during this period, including 26 children and six women, while 339 Palestinians were arrested. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reported tens of instances of rock and firebomb throwing by Palestinians at Israeli forces, during which five Israeli soldiers were injured.

Israeli security forces announced on 1 September the arrest of two Palestinians of East Jerusalem suspected of planning an explosive attack at a popular mall in West Jerusalem during the Jewish holidays. Their indictment suggests that the terrorist attack was at an advanced stage. The IDF also announced the arrest of a total of 24 Palestinian terror suspects on 2 and 4 September, and the confiscation of weapons, explosives and military equipment. Palestinian security forces, continuing to work to maintain security in the West Bank, defused a total of 23 unexploded devices.

Settlement activity continued in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. The construction of settlements is counterproductive and against international law. Clashes between Palestinians and settlers also continued, and reports of settler attacks against Palestinian farmers, including arson of olive trees near Nablus on 11 September, are particularly worrisome as we enter the olive-picking season.

We are monitoring with concern increased tensions in the Old City of Jerusalem, which resulted in clashes with Palestinian worshippers, injuries, arrests and restrictions imposed on Palestinian access to the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount compound. Incitement, provocation and violent actions must cease and the sanctity of holy sites of all faiths must be respected.

A total of 33 residential structures were demolished, including of the Bedouin community of Tel al-Adassa in East Jerusalem, leading to the displacement of 176 Palestinians, including 78 children. The ongoing practice of demolishing Palestinian structures that do not have an Israeli-issued permit only highlights the need for Israel to address the urgent housing and development needs of Palestinian communities in Area C and East Jerusalem. Palestinians require access to a fair planning and zoning regime so as not to resort to the building of structures without an Israeli permit, which leads to demolitions. We urge Israel to find a sustainable solution for the Tel al-Adassa Bedouins, most of whom have crossed the barrier into Area C in search of new grazing lands for their herds.

The calm in Gaza was mostly sustained. Two rockets exploded at their launching sites and seven rockets dropped short, landing inside of Gaza and putting its population at risk. Three Palestinian civilians were reportedly injured by Israeli fire on 20 and 30 August while approaching the border area in the north of Gaza. Israeli forces conducted five limited incursions into Gaza, and three improvised explosive devices were detonated during their patrols in the border area. The Israeli navy reportedly fired warning shots at the vicinity of Palestinian fishing boats on several occasions, citing security concerns. There were also reports of the Egyptian navy intercepting Palestinian fishing boats in Egyptian territorial waters. Allegedly, five fishermen were arrested, two of whom were injured.

Earlier this month, I met with the Egyptian leadership in Cairo, who ascribed great importance to progress in the peace process. The situation in Gaza was central to our discussions. Egypt has intensified military operations in northern Sinai, which included the continued closing of smuggling tunnels. Here, let me condemn the attacks in Rafah on 11 and 16 September, when six Egyptian security personnel were reported killed and 20 injured. Egyptian authorities have today announced that Rafah will be reopened for special cases.

While we fully recognize Egypt's legitimate security concerns and the need to effectively counter illegal activities in the Sinai and around Gaza, including smuggling via tunnels, we are particularly attentive to the potential humanitarian impact on Gaza. As a result of shortages of fuel, the Gaza power plant shut one of three generating turbines. The deficit of around 40 per cent of required electricity in Gaza could adversely impact other essential services, including water, sanitation and health. We continue to work with all concerned parties to ease the humanitarian pressures on Gaza and further increase access through legal crossings into Gaza, in particular of construction materials, fully taking into account legitimate security concerns and previous agreements.

The Gaza Strip remains a high priority for the United Nations, and we welcome the approval of another package of United Nations construction works involving what are still classified as dual-use materials. United Nations construction work in Gaza includes almost 3,000 housing units, 67 schools, eight health clinics, 31 water- and 10 electricity-related structures, and road habilitation, totaling some $450 million.

On 27 August, a military court in Gaza sentenced two men to death, one on charges of collaborating with Israel and the other for multiple homicides. No dates for the executions were set. I recall High Commissioner Navi Pillay's position on death sentences in Gaza, as well as her concern about ill-treatment and torture during interrogations of persons later sentenced to death.

Turning to Lebanon, there was a further devastating attack on 23 August, when two car bombs exploded outside mosques in the city of Tripoli, killing at least 45 people and injuring more than 200 others. Three Lebanese men and a Syrian were charged in connection with the attack. The Secretary-General strongly condemned the bombings and called for calm and unity in Lebanon. The Lebanese army and security forces intensified security measures across the country.

There was further cross-border fire from Syria into Lebanon, which caused material damage but no casualties. President Sleiman repeated his calls on all Lebanese parties to disassociate themselves from the conflict in Syria and to respect the Baabda Declaration. Prime Minister-designate Tammam Salam continued his consultations to form a new government.

On 22 August, four rockets were fired from the area of Tyre in southern Lebanon towards Israel, including two that landed in Israeli communities. The Abdallah Azzam Brigade claimed responsibility for the launch. The Lebanese authorities condemned the attack and have now detained two suspects. The Israel Defense Forces carried out a retaliatory strike on 23 August in the area of Naameh, south of Beirut. The Secretary-General urged all concerned to fully adhere to resolution 1701 (2006), cooperate with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and respect the cessation of hostilities.

On the Golan, the security situation remains volatile, with heavy clashes between the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and armed members of the opposition continuing inside the area of separation. The military activities in the area of separation have the potential to escalate the situation between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and jeopardize the ceasefire. On 12 September, during heavy clashes between the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and armed members of the opposition near United Nations observation post 54, five artillery shells and one tank shell landed on the Alpha side. There was no retaliation from the Israel Defense Forces.

In conclusion, last week marked 20 years since the signing of the Oslo accords. Twenty years of endless negotiations, prolonged occupation, terror and conflict have deeply affected perceptions and expectations within both Israeli and Palestinian societies and undermined the belief that peace is possible, even if the majority still favours a two-State solution. We do not underestimate the challenges ahead or the momentous efforts required to sustain and successfully conclude negotiations within the prescribed time frame.

And yet, 20 years of peace efforts have also demonstrated that fair, reasonable and legitimate solutions can be found for the key issues dividing the

parties. It is for the negotiators to identify and narrow these gaps, and for their leaders to take decisions in the best interest of their peoples. And the international community, including key regional stakeholders, must now show unity and resolve in assisting the parties in moving forward. The Secretary-General therefore looks forward to productive meetings of the AHLC and the Quartet this month, as well as to a constructive debate during this year's General Assembly.

Words are critical in preparing the ground for peace. Both leaders are soon to address the General Assembly, and we sincerely hope that they will take the opportunity to reach out to each other's people in making the case for peace.

The President: I thank Mr. Serry for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7033

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7033rd meeting
Wednesday, 18 September 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Mr. Maes
	Morocco	Mr. Laassel
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2013/479)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-47865 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2013/479)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2013/556, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Morocco, Rwanda, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2013/479, which contains the twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, France, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2116 (2013).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7034

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7034th meeting
Wednesday, 18 September 2013, 3.15 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Quinlan	(Australia)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Mr. Maes
	Morocco	Mr. Laassel
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2013/547)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-47871 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2013/547)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Canada, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/547, which contains the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone.

I now give the floor to Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen.

Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen: I would like to begin by thanking the Council for the opportunity to present the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) (S/2013/547). The report highlights major developments that have taken place in Sierra Leone over the past six months, and the progress made towards the completion of UNIPSIL's mandate and transfer of its remaining tasks to the United Nations country team on 31 March 2014.

Since I last briefed the Council, in March (see S/PV.6933), there have been notable developments in Sierra Leone. The United Nations and Sierra Leone's development partners have continued their support to the Government in the implementation of its national development strategy, known as the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018). The strategy lays the foundations for rapid and sustainable economic growth and democratic transformation by focusing on key economic, social and governance sectors. The total cost of the Agenda is about $6 billion, with a funding gap of more than $2 billion. Closing such a significant funding gap and achieving the goals set by the strategy requires far more international support, as well as the mobilization of substantial domestic resources, through increased domestic and foreign investment. Most importantly, it demands the full ownership, absolute dedication and hard work of all Sierra Leoneans. Robust systems and institutional and legal frameworks that would attract foreign and domestic investment with good corporate social responsibility are also key to the successful implementation of the Government's agenda.

The launching on 30 July of the long-awaited constitutional review process is another significant development of the past six months. We are pleased that the process is led and owned by the Sierra Leoneans, as amply demonstrated in the composition of the Constitutional Review Committee that is spearheading the review process.

We commend President Koroma for his leadership and commitment to an inclusive and transparent constitutional review process. The review presents a historic opportunity for strengthening Sierra Leone's democratic institutions, anchoring the rule of law and human rights, leading to a modern and more inclusive system of governance, promoting equitable economic development and social justice for all; those will in turn foster greater cohesion and unity among Sierra Leoneans. Funding for the review process has been secured through contributions from the Government of Sierra Leone, the European Union, the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the United Nations.

With the support of the United Nations and the international community as a whole, Sierra Leone has made significant progress over the past decade in the consolidation of its hard-won peace and democratic transformation. Sustaining those gains and achieving

the country's ambitious development aspirations would, however, require continued efforts and commitment to strengthening and empowering the country's democratic institutions and promoting the rule of law and democratic governance. In that respect, attention and priority should continue to be given, inter alia, to combating corruption, ensuring the professionalism and independence of the security and justice sectors, and building the capacity of national institutions, including Parliament, to effectively play their role.

We commend the Government's political commitment to combating corruption, in particular President Koroma's zero-tolerance policy. In the same vein, we wish to underline the importance of continued support for the efforts of the Anti-Corruption Commission to effectively discharge its mandate.

Sierra Leone's political parties, in particular the ruling All People's Congress and the main opposition party, the Sierra Leone People's Party, have an important role to play in maintaining and consolidating the country's multiparty democracy and political pluralism. To that end, it is incumbent on them to resolve all intra- and inter-party disputes through dialogue and working together, putting the country's interest above all others.

As requested by the Council, UNIPSIL has finalized and is implementing a transition and exit plan aimed at the mission's full drawdown by 31 March 2014. The plan addresses both the implementation of the mission's remaining mandate, as outlined in resolution 2097 (2013), and the transfer of residual tasks to the United Nations country team. In that regard, following consultations with the Government, the United Nations country team and other partners, we have finalized programme documents covering key activities in the three priority areas, namely, constitutional review, security sector reform and conflict prevention. Those activities will be implemented during the next two to four years, with funding to be secured from bilateral sources, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

The drawdown and closure of various components and field offices of UNIPSIL are also proceeding as planned. As indicated in the report before the Council, the mission's aviation unit and the Democratic Institutions Section have been closed. The Human Rights Section will complete its work by the end of December 2013, with the human rights-related work of the United Nations transferred to the Resident Coordinator's Office. The remaining components of the mission, namely, the Political and Peace Consolidation Section and the United Nations Police, will continue their work, with reduced capacity, until the closure of the mission.

With respect to UNIPSIL's field offices, the regional office in the eastern province was closed in April, and the remaining three offices will either be closed or transferred to the United Nations country team by the end of December. Given the importance of continuing the work of the United Nations in the field, I am encouraged by the interest some United Nations agencies have shown to take over UNIPSIL's facilities and maintain a presence in the various regions of Sierra Leone. However, the scope of those agencies' presence will depend on availability of funding.

Most importantly, as UNIPSIL is making good progress in the implementation of its transition and drawdown plan, the United Nations country team has also stepped up its work in finalizing a United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2015-2020. The Framework will replace the joint UNIPSIL/United Nations country team strategy or the United Nations joint vision, and serve as the United Nations strategy to support the Government's Agenda for Prosperity.

The implementation of UNIPSIL's transition and exit strategy is on course, and we are firmly set to complete a full drawdown on 31 March 2014. At the same time, Sierra Leone has embarked on major undertakings: the launching of the country's development agenda — the Agenda for Prosperity — and a constitutional review exercise. Those are ambitious undertakings, but they are also essential for Sierra Leone's economic development and democratic transformation and in addressing the root causes of the conflict identified in the report of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

There are already high expectations. Success in meeting those expectations and building a prosperous, democratic and peaceful country is not only the responsibility of the Government or a particular group, but a shared responsibility of all Sierra Leoneans, including the country's political parties, civil society, traditional leaders and others. I therefore call on all Sierra Leoneans to set aside their political differences and group interests and work together in a spirit of national unity to promote the development and democratization agenda of their country.

In concluding, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the people and the Government of Sierra Leone, in particular President Ernest Bai Koroma, for their continued support for the work of the United Nations, including the seamless and timely implementation of UNIPSIL's transition plan. I would also like to thank the Security Council for its continued interest in Sierra Leone and our activities in the country.

The President: I thank Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Rishchynski.

Mr. Rishchynski: I would like to express the appreciation of all the members of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission for the opportunity to come before the Security Council to brief it on the situation in Sierra Leone.

(*spoke in French*)

It is my pleasure to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. I intend to focus my remarks on three topics: the drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and the transition to a United Nations country team, the Government of Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity, and the future of the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement.

(*spoke in English*)

As the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General has outlined, UNIPSIL is on track to depart Sierra Leone in March 2014. The United Nations transition process is well under way, with a clear plan in place for UNIPSIL to gradually transfer core responsibilities to members of the United Nations country team. While Sierra Leone has made significant progress in recent years, some challenges will linger. United Nations planning reflects those needs, with continued investment required in the areas of conflict prevention, security sector reform and human rights. If managed successfully and inclusively, the forthcoming constitutional review also has the potential to be a transformative process, especially if it advances equality between women and men and provides a new basis for mitigating Sierra Leone's winner-takes-all politics.

Those issues will require continued attention and support. I am pleased to note that the response to date from the United Nations and Sierra Leone's international partners has been extremely positive. Funds are either in place or anticipated to be available to cover most of the costs associated with each of the core transition areas. We also understand that the Peacebuilding Fund is prepared to address some of the residual gaps through its Immediate Response Facility. As we noted in our previous briefing (see S/PV.6933), the Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to help marshal any additional resources that may be required.

(*spoke in French*)

The Government of Sierra Leone officially launched its Agenda for Prosperity in July 2013. The strategy outlines a vision for socioeconomic development based on effective management of natural resources and private sector-led growth. The programme also includes several elements relating to peacebuilding. For example, pillar seven on governance and public sector reform includes commitments to strengthening anti-corruption efforts, protecting and promoting human rights, enhancing access to justice, continuing the reform of key security sector institutions, and building public sector capacity. Pillar eight proposes a series of important initiatives to combat violence against women, improve economic empowerment, and increase participation in political decision-making. In addition, the challenge of youth unemployment features in several other pillars dedicated to socioeconomic development. Given this focus, the Peacebuilding Commission intends to hold a high-level meeting in the coming months to discuss, promote and disseminate the Agenda for Prosperity.

(*spoke in English*)

Resolution 2097 (2013) requested that the Peacebuilding Commission review its engagement in Sierra Leone "with a view to scaling down its role". Discussions on the design of this process, the first of its kind in the Peacebuilding Commission, have begun within the configuration. An initial review of peacebuilding in Sierra Leone will be conducted later this year. This exercise will examine progress to date, evaluate outstanding challenges and assess areas potentially requiring additional support. These findings will inform a technical mission to Sierra Leone later in the fall, which will begin to establish the parameters of the Commission's own transition process. We then plan to conduct a Chair's visit in early 2014. That visit will provide a valuable opportunity to discuss progress on the United Nations transition and the Agenda for Prosperity. It will also serve to finalize agreement

with the Government of Sierra Leone on the nature and duration of the Commission's support. This analysis and planning will be distilled into a transition strategy for the Peacebuilding Commission, on which we intend to consult with the Security Council in early 2014.

Finally, let me conclude with two comments. First, transitions represent critical moments during post-conflict peacebuilding processes. They have potential to either lay the foundations for sustainable progress or create new challenges. For this reason, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, the United Nations country team, and the United Nations system deserves great credit for their careful stewardship of the process to date.

Secondly, at a time when the Security Council faces significant challenges, Sierra Leone reminds us of what it is possible to achieve. Yet consolidating peace is a long-term endeavour. UNIPSIL's drawdown should be seen as a transformation of international support rather than its culmination. It is vitally important that the international community continue to devote the attention and resources necessary to build on the impressive progress already achieved by Sierra Leoneans.

The President: I thank Mr. Rishchynski for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone): I congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of September. I thank you for giving my delegation the opportunity to contribute to this briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone.

Let me at the outset convey on behalf of His Excellency President Ernest Bai Koroma and the Government and people of Sierra Leone our deep appreciation for the continued support and interest of the Security Council, the wider membership of the United Nations and our international partners in consolidating peace and security in Sierra Leone, as well as in supporting our political and economic development effort.

In particular, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his eleventh report (S/2013/547) on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) for the period from 1 March to 31 August 2013, which has been ably introduced by the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen. We note with profound appreciation his instructive presentation, critically focusing on the constitutional review process that has recently begun, the launch of the Agenda for Prosperity and support for its implementation, the UNIPSIL drawdown and transition road map, and issues relating to progress made in building and consolidating peace in Sierra Leone. We appreciate the excellent manner in which UNIPSIL continues to partner and cooperate with the Government and people of Sierra Leone in the delivery of its mandate even as it progressively draws down. The signals so far are that it is an orderly process.

We also express our gratitude to the members of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) through its Chair, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski of Canada, for the relentless commitment and strong support the configuration continues to demonstrate in the pursuit of peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone. We note with particular interest his insightful remarks focusing on the UNIPSIL drawdown and transition to a United Nations country team, my Government's Agenda for Prosperity, and the future of the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement in the country. We share and agree with his perspectives detailing the road map for scaling down the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement in Sierra Leone, and welcome his support for our effort in building a more resilient country.

Consistent with the improved security situation in the country, the Security Council adopted resolution 2097 (2013) to pave the way for the drawdown of UNIPSIL in Sierra Leone. The Government acknowledges and supports UNIPSIL's drawdown, as well as the review of the PBC engagement with the country as a response to the significantly improved security environment prevailing in the country.

The progress we have collectively made in improving peace, security and stability provides a platform for rolling out the Agenda for Prosperity — the road map to the attainment of middle-income and donor country status within the next 25 to 50 years. Thus, in launching the Agenda for Prosperity on 12 July, President Ernest Bai Koroma called on all Sierra Leoneans and development partners to put all hands on deck in support of this very ambitious development framework. The Agenda for Prosperity embraces the nexus between

development, peace, security and stability. For us, it is an incremental path towards building a sustainable future for Sierra Leone after the Agenda for Change, which ended last year.

This development framework, which represents Sierra Leone's third poverty-reduction strategy, is anchored to the eight pillars, compared to the four pillars of the Agenda for Change. They are economic diversification to promote inclusive green growth; better management of our natural resources; accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals for human development; improving the country's international competitiveness; ensuring a more focused employment and labour strategy; ensuring social protection; strengthening governance and public sector reform; and mainstreaming gender.

Based on our experience in implementing the Agenda for Change, including the lessons learned and remaining challenges, the Agenda for Prosperity is all-encompassing and seeks to address peacebuilding elements, as well as the residual programmes of its predecessor, the Agenda for Change. It is also consistent with the "one vision, one plan" principle of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

It is encouraging to note that the most recent fragility assessment of Sierra Leone reveals a reduction in the overall poverty profile, from 66.4 per cent in 2003 to 52.9 per cent in 2011. Also, preliminary estimates from the International Monetary Fund indicate that Sierra Leone's economy is on track to achieve a projected growth of up to 13.3 per cent, as output in the mining, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and service sectors continues to expand. The stable macroeconomic performance in the first half of 2013 has sustained that trend. That improvement should be a catalyst and encouragement for us as a nation and our partners to do more, by investing in the Agenda for Prosperity. The country is currently concluding a new programme with the International Monetary Fund that is consistent with the stated ambitions of the Agenda for Prosperity.

Sierra Leone remains steadfastly committed to the fight against corruption, poverty, the illicit trade in and transfer of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, which are currently plaguing our subregion.

We have continued to score highly on the protection of human rights. We have made significant strides in creating a stable and secure environment for investment to create wealth and generate employment opportunities for our youth. A range of initiatives have been undertaken to mainstream gender and broaden opportunities to enhance the role and visibility of women in decision-making.

Efforts in addressing youth empowerment and unemployment remain at the heart of the Agenda for Prosperity. We have undertaken a number of interventions, including the creation of a national volunteer service corps, the engagement of youth in the agricultural sector and the improvement of the legal and institutional framework for labour administration. The Government is also negotiating with international partners to actualize the establishment of a youth skills development village, aimed at preparing youth for employment in the private sector.

We are making steady progress in strengthening the coordination mechanisms between the newly established Ministry of Youth Affairs and the National Youth Commission. We welcome the support of the United Nations team in that regard.

We continue to count on the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and all partners in the implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity, with particular reference to the peacebuilding elements, including the regional approach to peacebuilding, the review of its engagement and scaling down its role. In that regard, we applaud the very good work and commitment of the Peacebuilding Commission and our development partners. I would like to urge all members to continue to support our development process through concessional financing, the promotion of foreign investments and support to our educational and key governance institutions, including through the expansion of the job market and economic opportunities for our young population.

President Koroma inaugurated the Constitutional Review Committee on 30 July 2013 to oversee the process of reviewing the 1991 Constitution. The Committee has a broad-based membership, drawn from all registered political parties, civil society and democratic institutions such as the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Youth Commission, the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, the National Union of Students, the Sierra Leone Bar Association and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists.

The aim of that process, as outlined by President Koroma in his inaugural remarks, is to produce a people-friendly, easy-to-understand and easy-to-follow Constitution that is inclusive and reflects the country's unity in diversity. The process is intended to also draw on lessons learned from the country's constitutional history to capture the country's renewal and dynamism and best international practices of constitutionalism.

The Committee has commenced public consultations throughout the country using wide-ranging outreach tools to ensure the broadest possible participation of Sierra Leoneans in the process, at the end of which the Committee will submit its recommendations to the Government for parliamentary approval. That will be followed by a national referendum. The United Nations and our international partners have agreed to provide technical and financial support for that process.

On internal security, six personnel of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces are currently being investigated for allegedly holding an illegal secret meeting at the Tekoh military barracks in the Northern Province city of Makeni. The findings of the investigation, when completed, will be made public. However, the overall security situation in the country remains under firm control.

The security sector reform programme, aimed at continually re-training our armed forces and enhancing the institutional capacity of our security apparatus, is in an advanced stage. UNIPSIL is providing technical support for the establishment of the independent police complaints committee, a matter that will soon be submitted to Parliament for approval.

We have also successfully resolved, through diplomatic means, the long-standing border dispute over Yenga with our sister country the Republic of Guinea.

Let me conclude by commending the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, and the staff of UNIPSIL, United Nations agencies, the Peacebuilding Commission, funds and programmes and other international and regional partners for collaboratively working with the Government of Sierra Leone in supporting our efforts to consolidate peace and security in the country and our development aspirations. We stand ready to continue collaborating with UNIPSIL, the Peacebuilding Commission and our international partners to ensure a seamless transition to a United Nations resident coordinator system.

The President: There are no further names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.